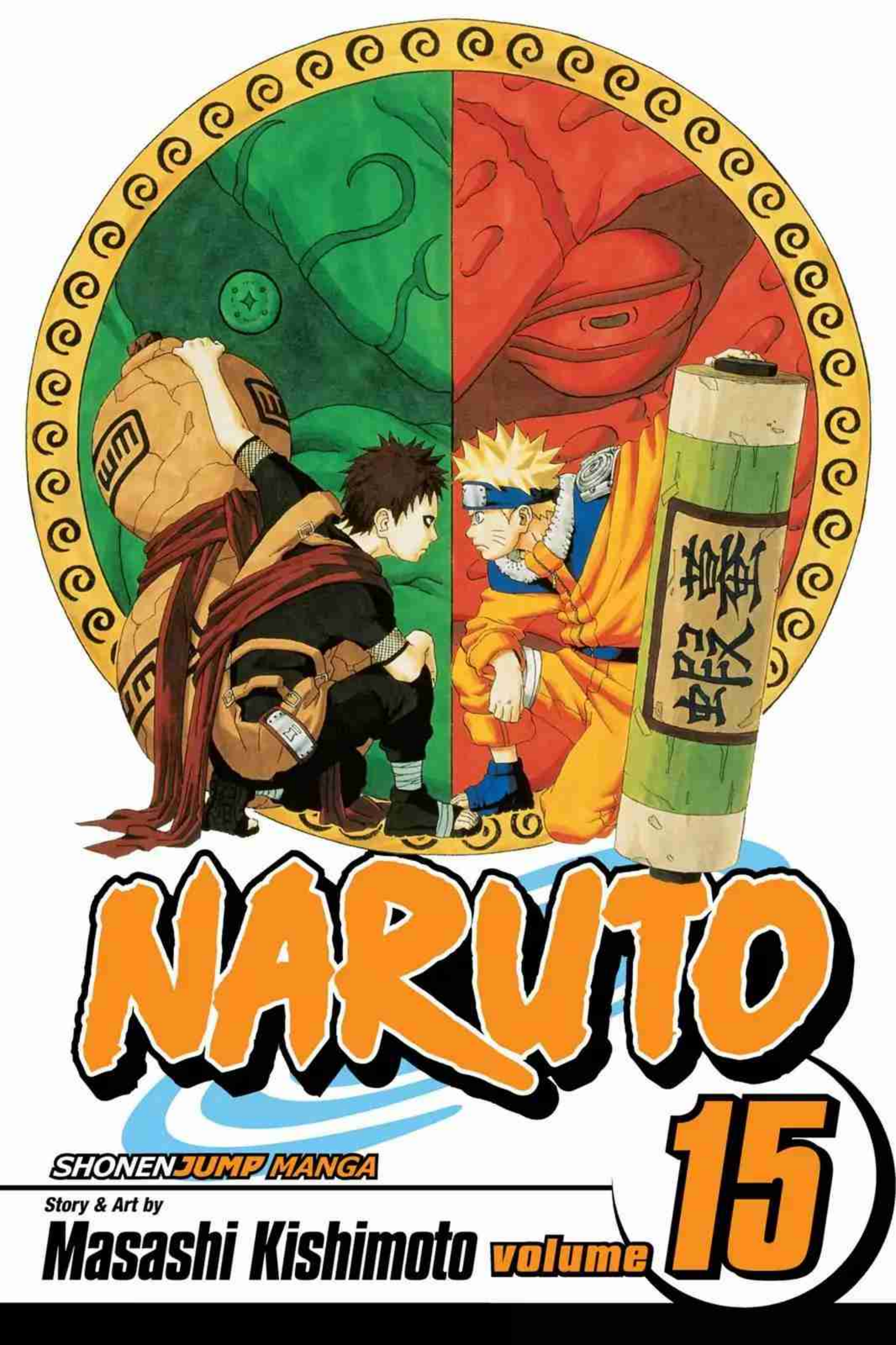

NARUTO
SHONEN JUMP MANGA
Story & Art by
Masashi Kishimoto
volume 15

岸本斉史

I'm starting to run out of things to write for this "Author's Comments" section...
Since going to the movies is practically my only hobby, I guess I'll write about movies...
Hmm. Some movies I've seen recently are...
...Oh man! I've been so busy recently that I haven't gone to the movies--!!
I want to see movies...

—*Masashi Kishimoto, 2002*

Author/artist Masashi Kishimoto was born in 1974 in rural Okayama Prefecture, Japan. After spending time in art college, he won the Hop Step Award for new manga artists with his manga **Karakuri** (Mechanism). Kishimoto decided to base his next story on traditional Japanese culture. His first version of **Naruto**, drawn in 1997, was a one-shot story about fox spirits; his final version, which debuted in **Weekly Shonen Jump** in 1999, quickly became the most popular ninja manga in Japan.

NARUTO VOL. 15
SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

This graphic novel contains material that was originally published in English in **SHONEN JUMP** #54–55. Artwork in the magazine may have been slightly altered from that presented here.

STORY AND ART BY MASASHI KISHIMOTO

Translation & English Adaptation/Mari Morimoto
Touch-up Art & Lettering/Inori Fukuda Trant
Additional Touch-up/Josh Simpson
Design/Sean Lee
Editor//Joel Enos

NARUTO © 1999 by Masashi Kishimoto. All rights reserved. First published in Japan in 1999 by SHUEISHA Inc., Tokyo. English translation rights arranged by SHUEISHA Inc.

The rights of the author(s) of the work(s) in this publication to be so identified have been asserted in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this publication are entirely fictional.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the copyright holders.

Printed in the U.S.A.

Published by VIZ Media, LLC
P.O. Box 77010
San Francisco, CA 94107

10 9 8 7 6 5 4
First printing, July 2007
Fourth printing, March 2012

www.viz.com

PARENTAL ADVISORY
NARUTO is rated T for Teen and is recommended for ages 13 and up. This volume contains tobacco use and realistic and fantasy violence.

ratings.viz.com

www.shonenjump.com

SHONEN JUMP MANGA

NARUTO

VOL. 15

NARUTO'S NINJA HANDBOOK!

STORY AND ART BY

MASASHI KISHIMOTO

CHARACTERS

Sasuke
サスケ

Naruto
ナルト

Sakura
サクラ

Guy ガイ

Neji ネジ

Rock Lee
ロック・リー

Tenten
テンテン

Gamabunta
ガマブン太

Shikamaru
シカマル

Kiba & Akamaru キバ&赤丸

Hinata
ヒナタ

Shino シノ

Choji
チョウジ

Ino いの

The Story So Far...

Twelve years ago a destructive nine-tailed fox spirit attacked the ninja village of Konohagakure. The Hokage, or village champion, defeated the fox by sealing its soul into the body of a baby boy. Now that boy, Uzumaki Naruto, has grown up to be a ninja-in-training, learning the art of ninjutsu with his team-mates Sakura and Sasuke.

Naruto and company take on the Chûnin Selection Exams but suffer a sudden attack from Orochimaru in the Forest of Death. Orochimaru leaves a curse mark on Sasuke's body and vanishes...

Then, during the finals of the Chûnin Exams, Orochimaru, disguised as Kazekage, takes the Hokage hostage and erects a barrier shield. *Operation Destroy Konoha* is under way as Naruto chases after Sasuke and Gaara, who have both disappeared.

NARUTO

VOL. 15

NARUTO'S NINJA HANDBOOK!

CONTENTS

NUMBER 127: TO FEEL ALIVE...!! 7

NUMBER 128: EXCEEDING ONE'S LIMITS...!! 27

NUMBER 129: TO HURT...!! 47

NUMBER 130: LOVE...!! 67

NUMBER 131: THE NAME GAARA...!! 87

NUMBER 132: THE TWO...DARKNESS AND LIGHT 107

NUMBER 133: THOSE WHO ARE STRONG...!! 127

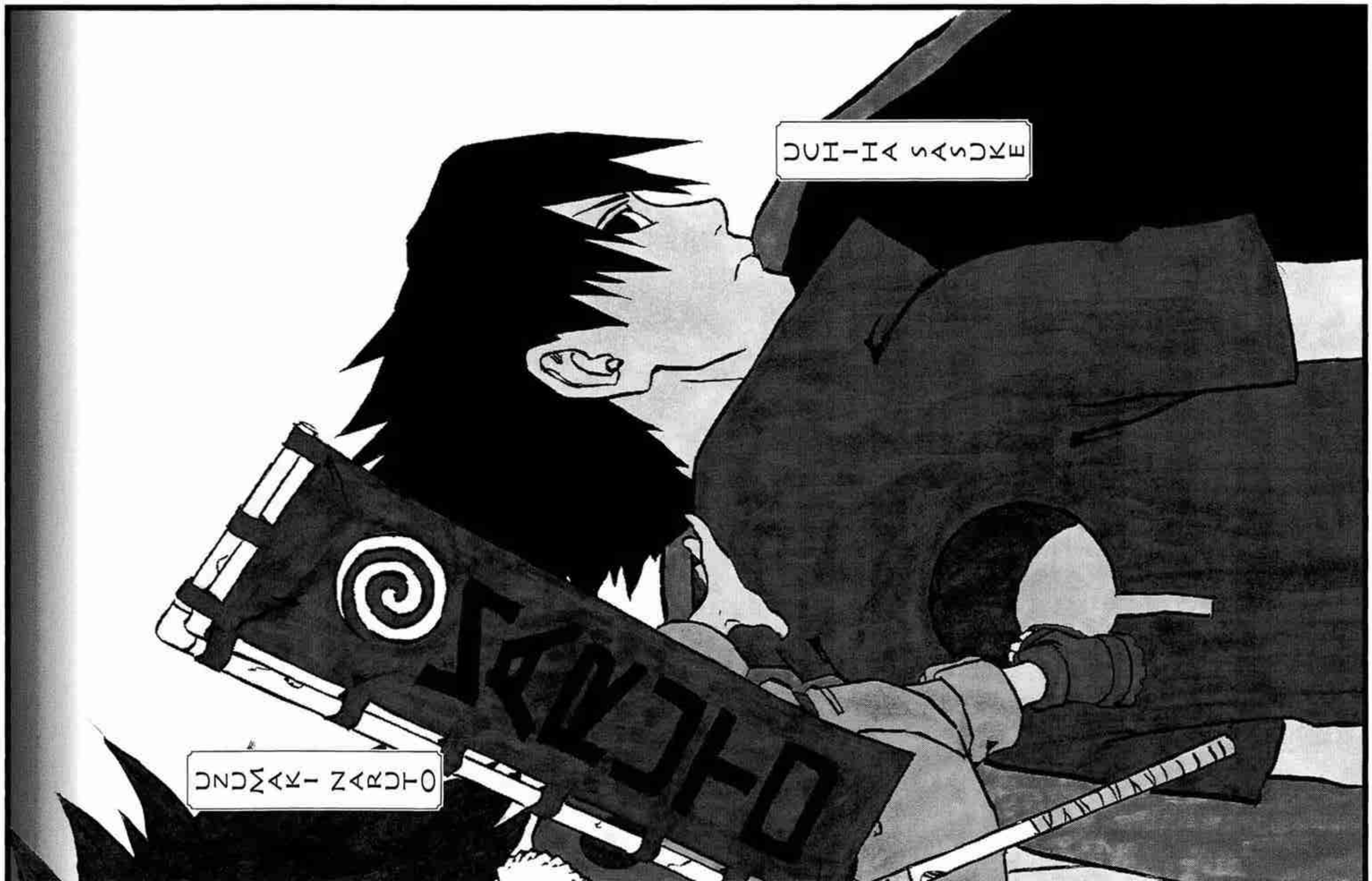
NUMBER 134: NARUTO'S NINJA HANDBOOK! 145

NUMBER 135: THE GALE-LIKE BATTLE...!! 165

HUF

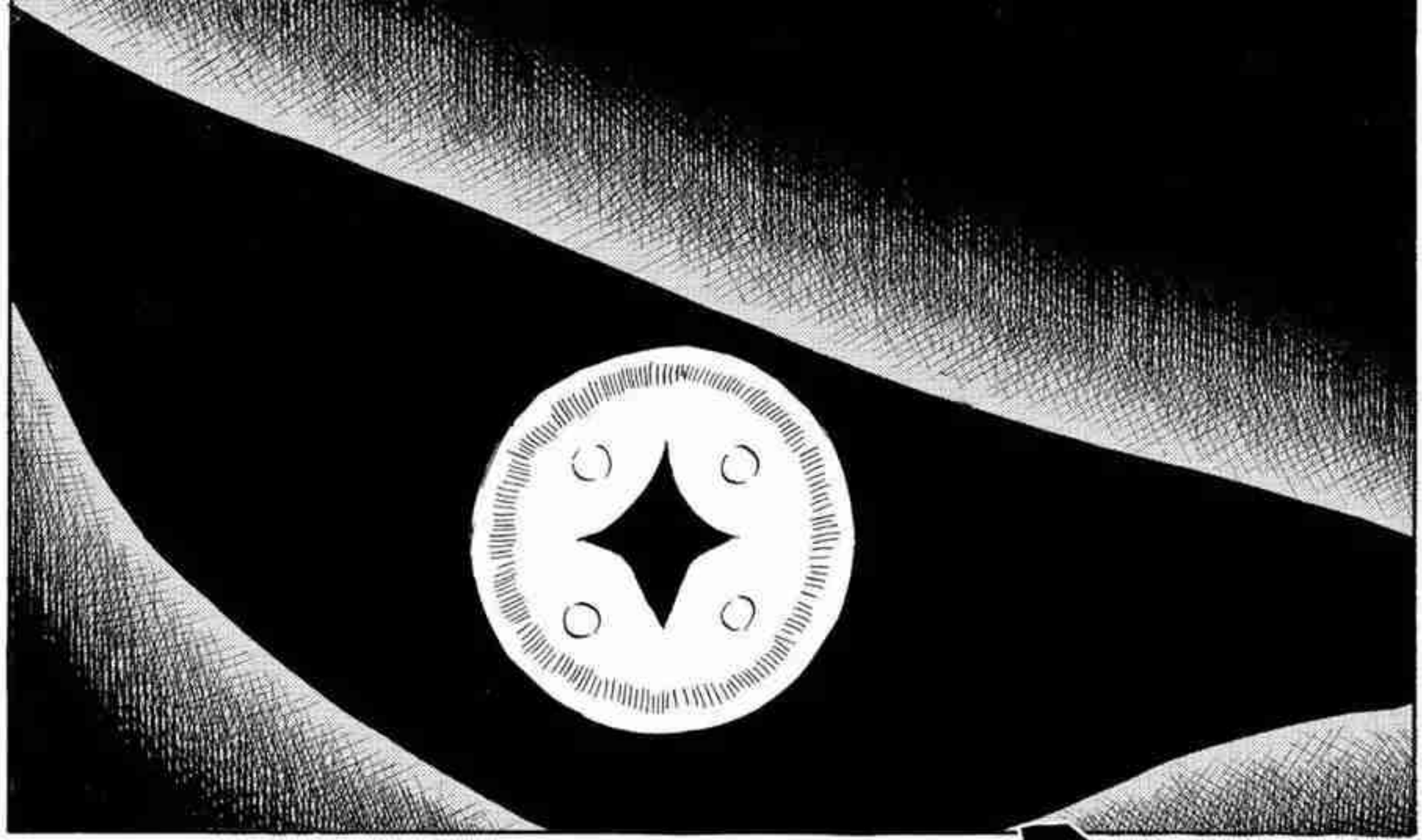
HUF

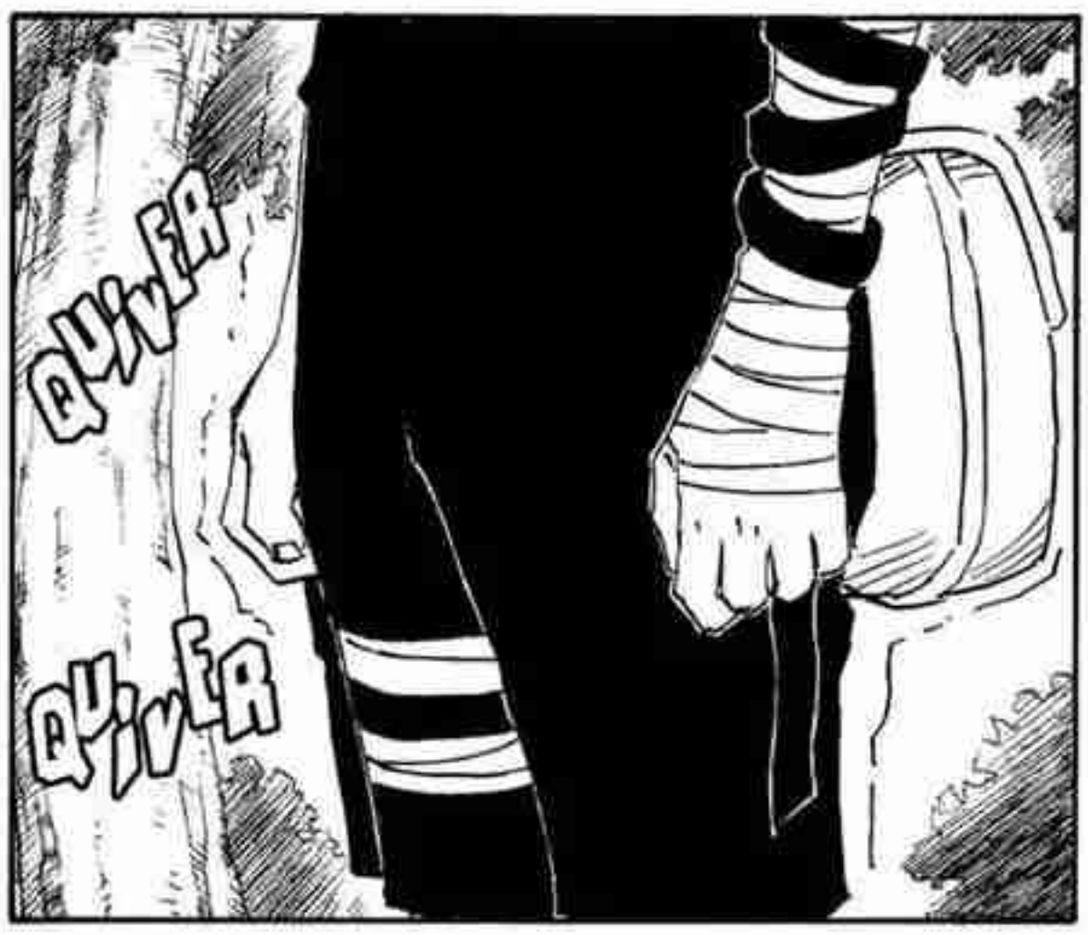
Number 127: To Feel Alive...!!

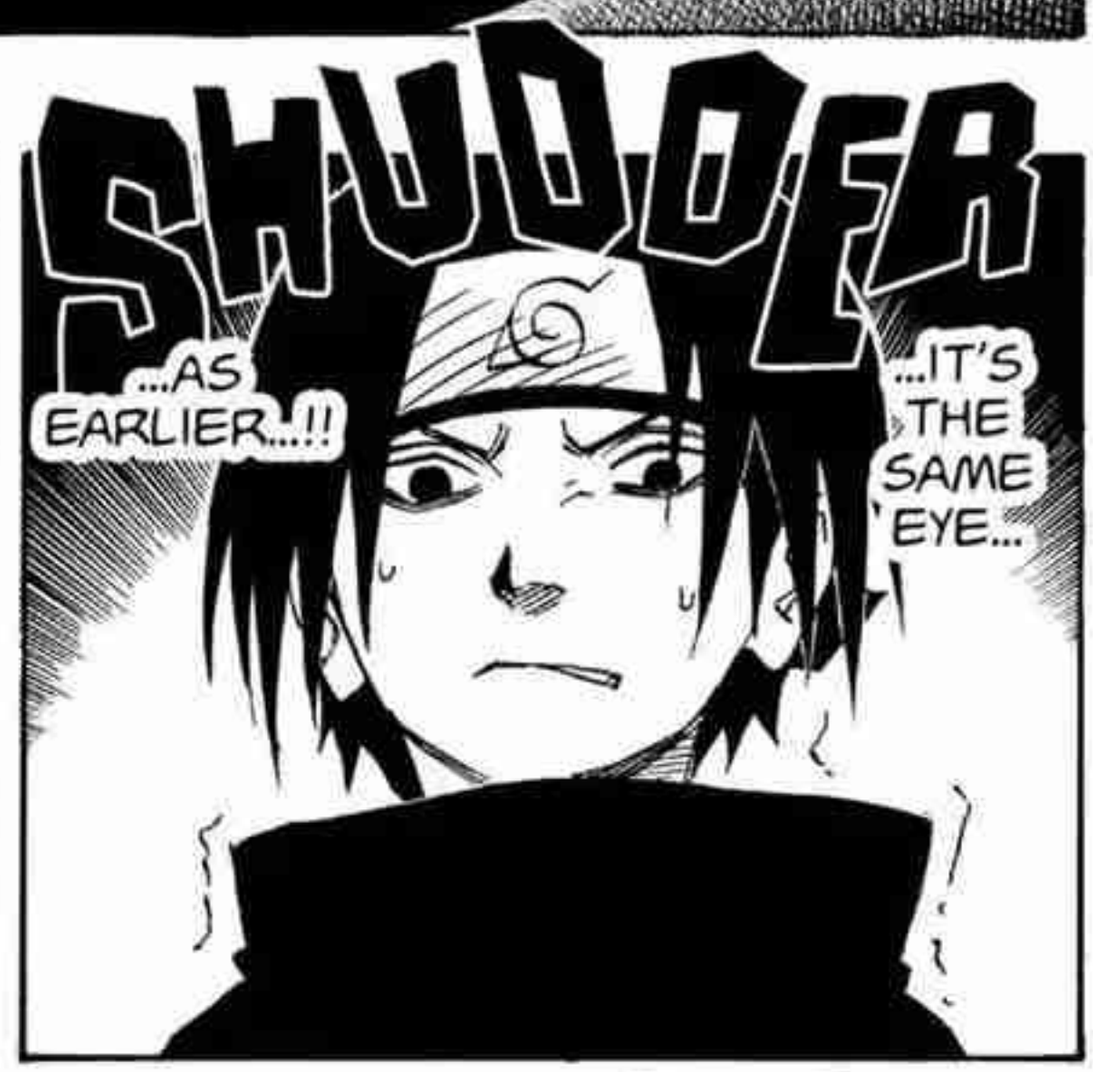

ナルトの
ナルト-ナルト ハイパーモード

GAARA OF THE SAND
Number 127:
To Feel Alive...!!

NARUTO
-ナルト-




QUIVER
QUIVER

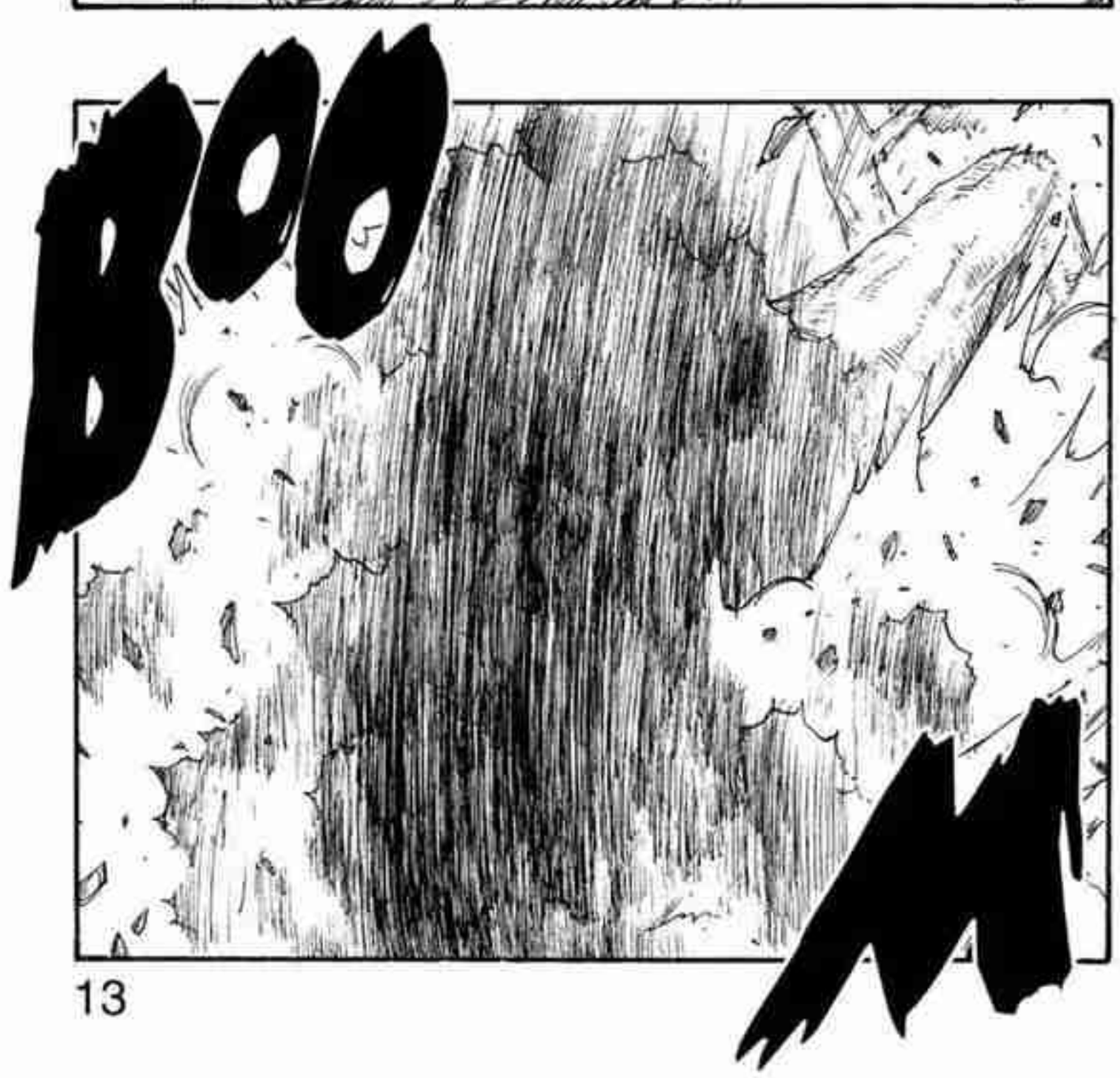

SHUDDER
...AS EARLIER...!!
...IT'S THE SAME EYE...

!!

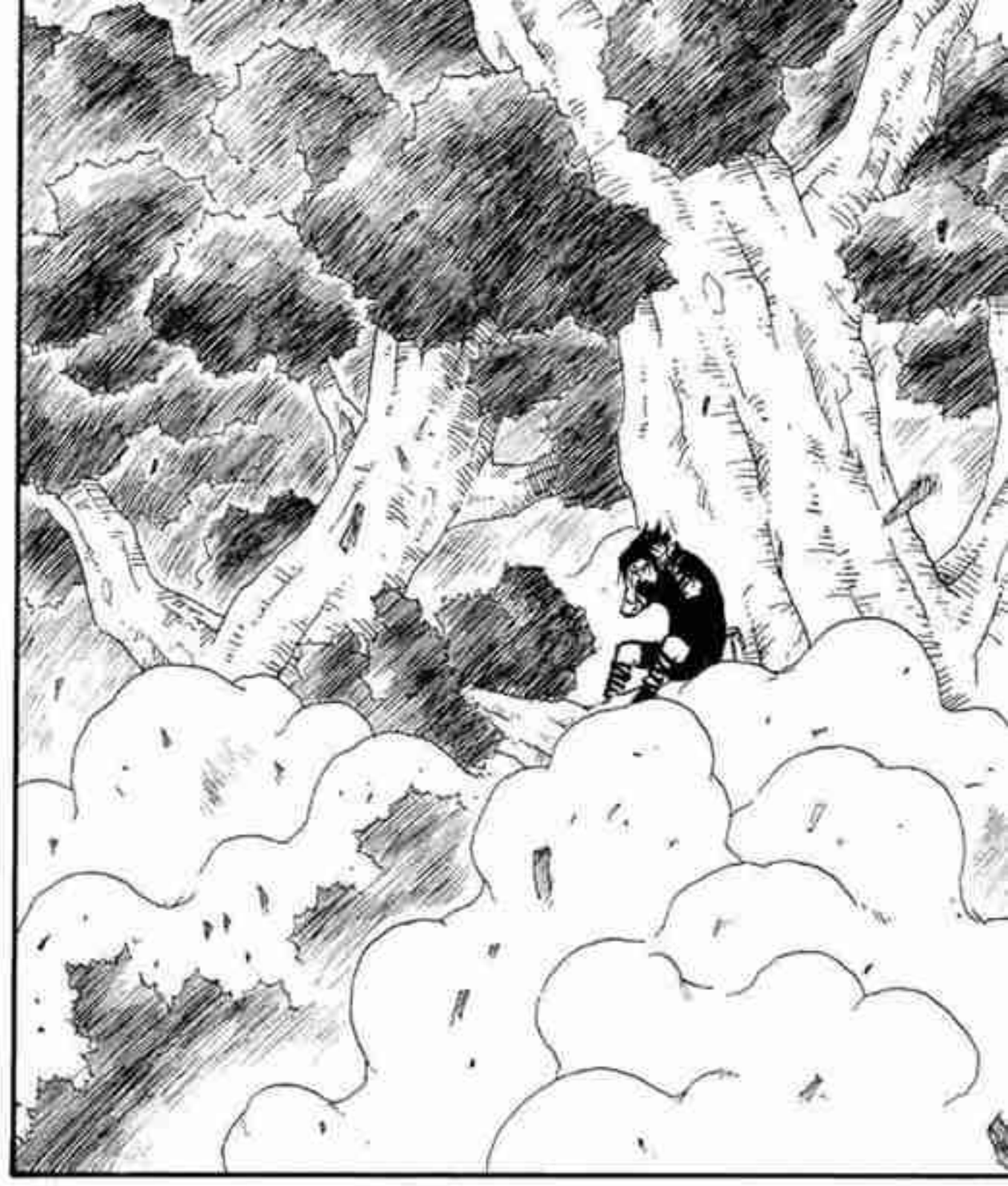
CRACK

愛
RRRRGAR!!

KA BOOM



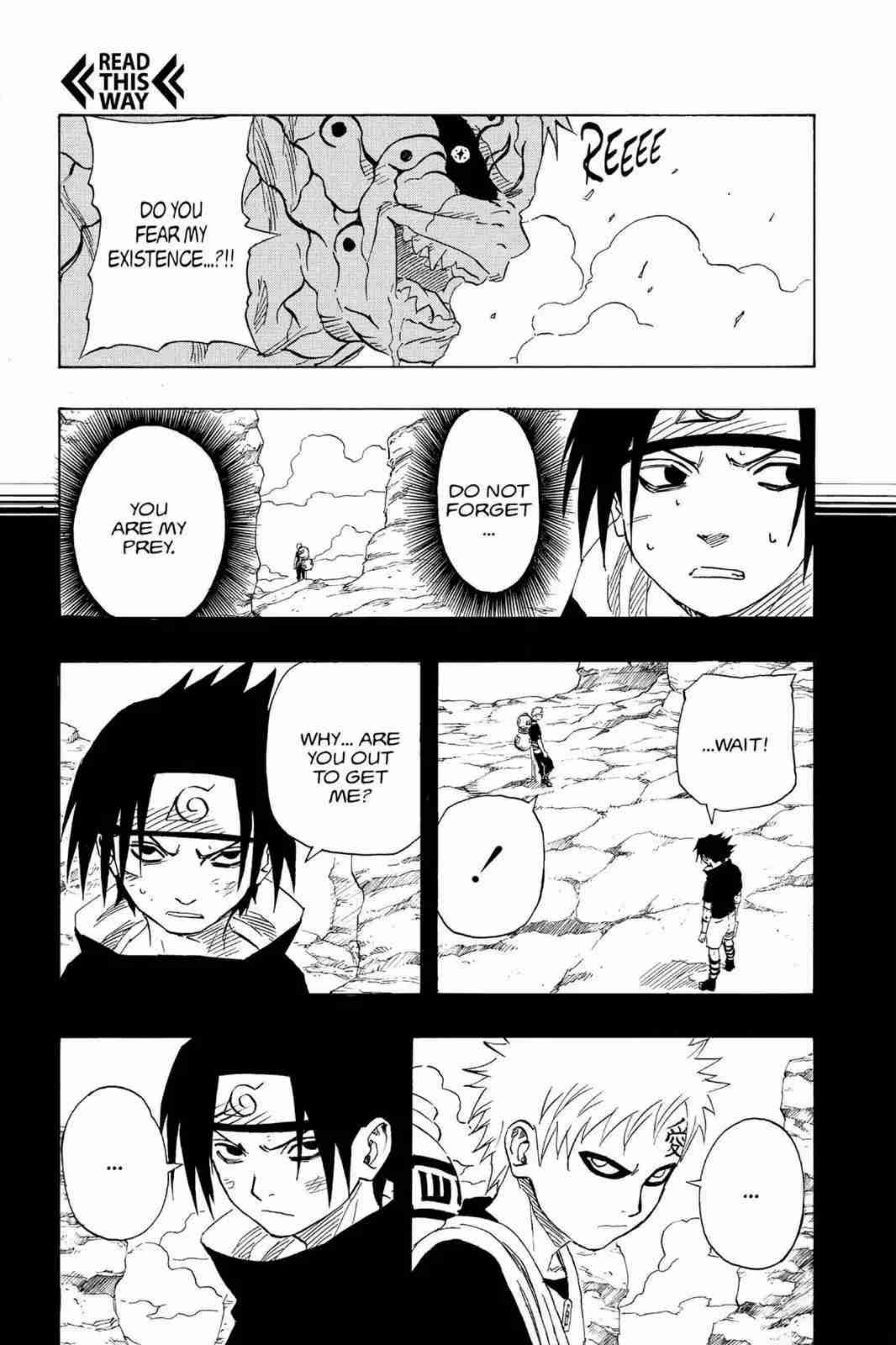
...HE... REALLY IS A MONSTER ...
HWOO HWUFFF



...

UCHIHA... SASUKE!

DO YOU FEAR ME?
愛

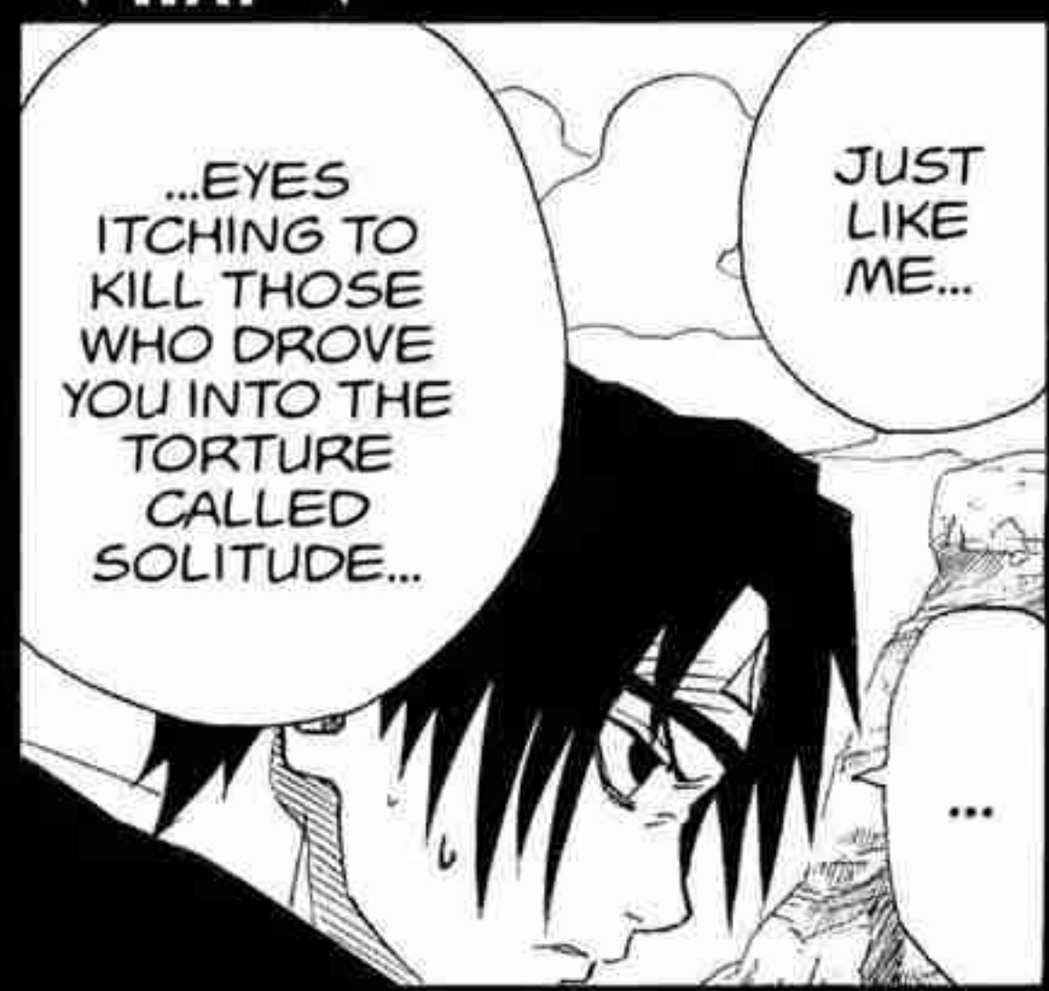

READ THIS WAY
DO YOU FEAR MY EXISTENCE...?!!
REEEE
YOU ARE MY PREY.
DO NOT FORGET ...
WHY... ARE YOU OUT TO GET ME?
!
...WAIT!
...
...

!!

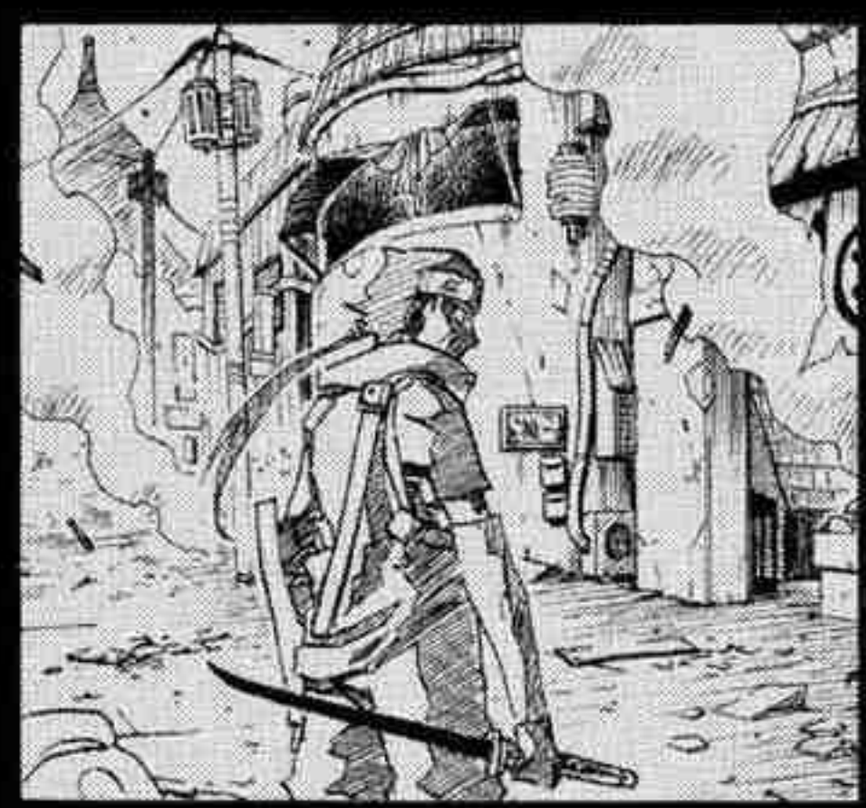
YOU'VE GOT EYES THAT KNOW REAL ISOLATION...
愛

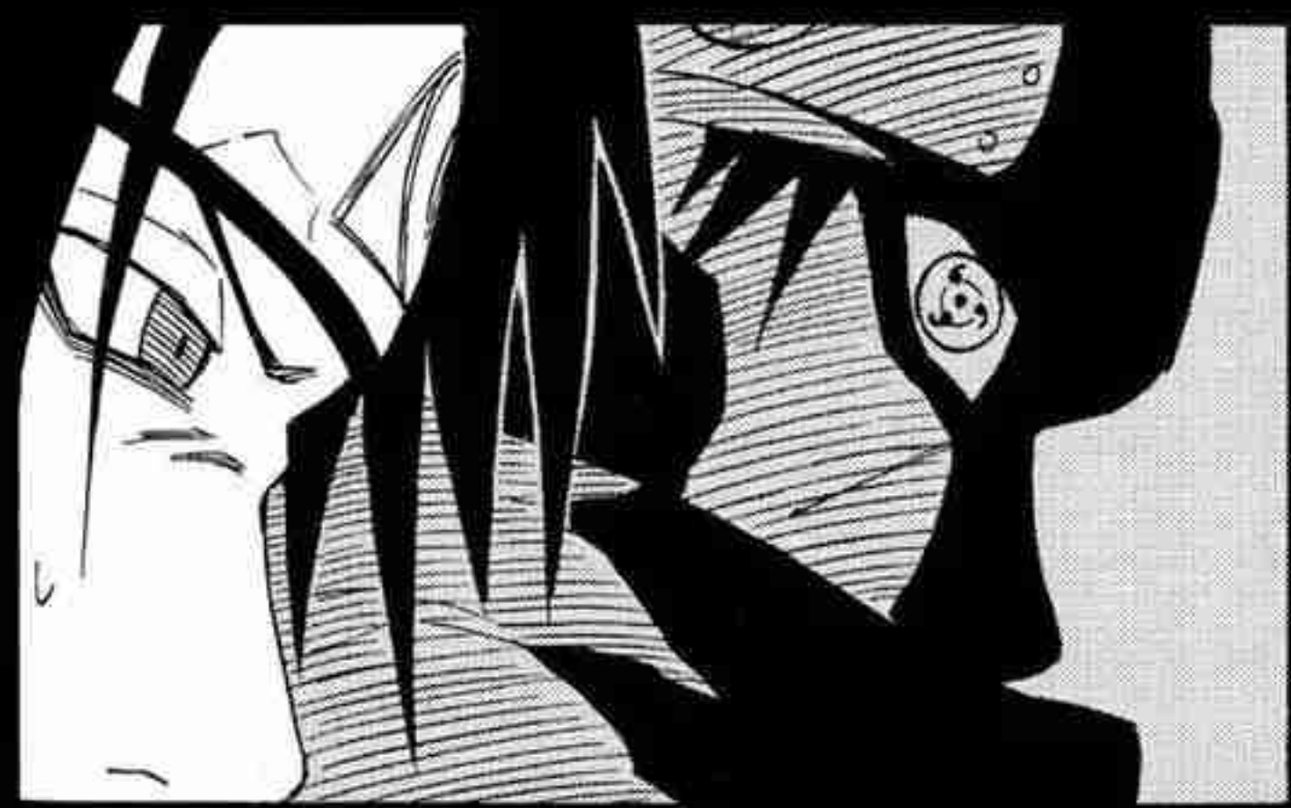
...

...EYES THAT RECOGNIZE IT AS THE GREATEST PAIN IN THIS WORLD...
...AND...


...EYES ITCHING TO KILL THOSE WHO DROVE YOU INTO THE TORTURE CALLED SOLITUDE...
JUST LIKE ME...
...

...EYES SEEKING STRENGTH, SPILLING OVER WITH HATRED AND INTENT TO KILL...
I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU. YOU HAVE EYES LIKE MINE...





酒

EEE
EEE

GAARA, RIGHT...?
ALL RIGHT, HOLD IT RIGHT THERE...
...!
!

THAT'S IT, THOSE ARE THE EYES...
愛

NOW, WHAT IN THE WORLD DID YOU WANT TO SAY TO HIM, TRACKING HIM ALL THE WAY DOWN HERE BEFORE THE FINALS?
...YOU SHOULDN'T TALK LIKE YOU'VE SEEN THROUGH HIM ENTIRELY.
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU THINK YOU KNOW ALL ABOUT SASUKE, BUT...

...WHERE ONE PITS ONE'S EXISTENCE AGAINST ANOTHER'S...
愛
A BATTLE IS A GAMBLE ...

...!
愛

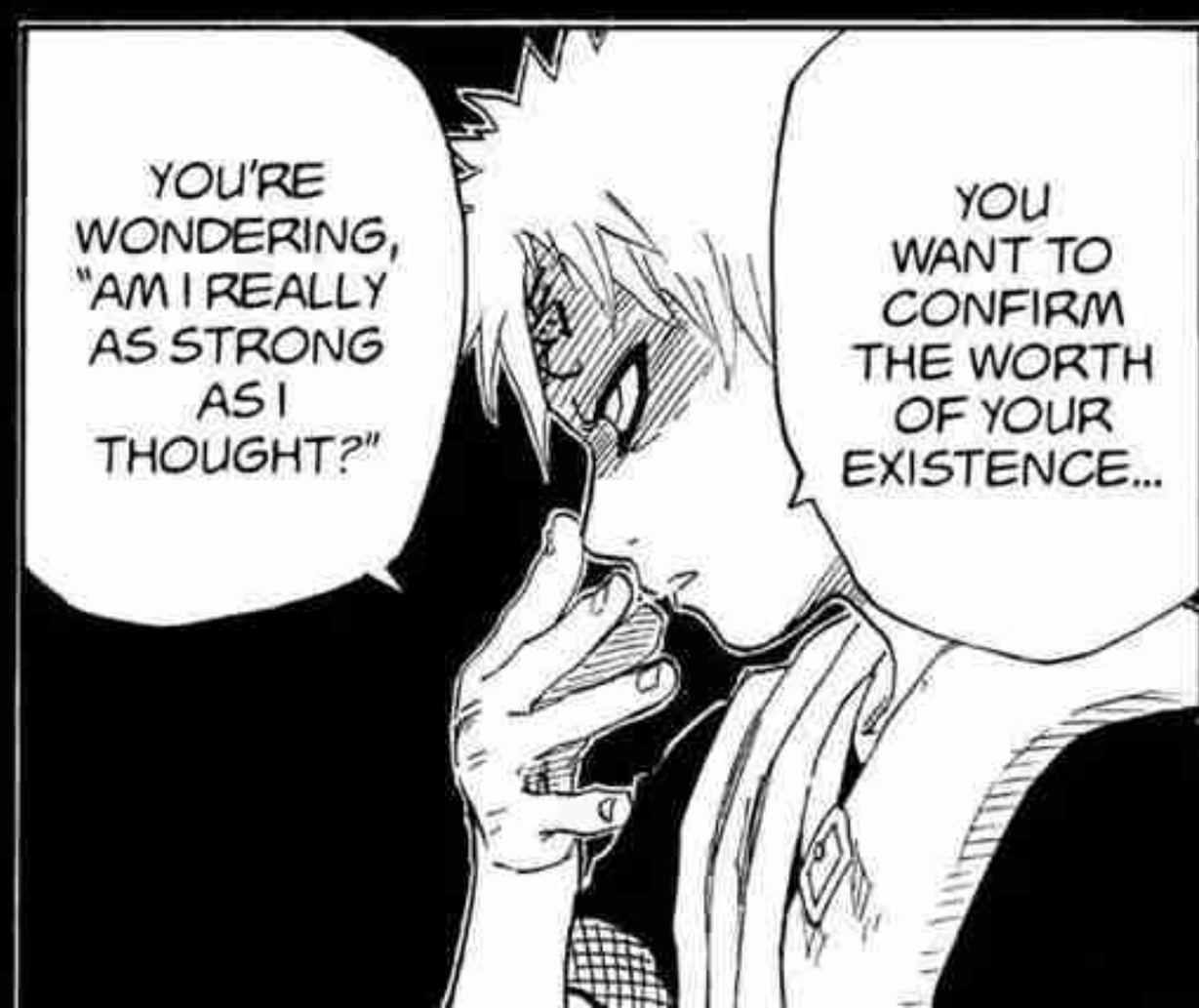
AND WHERE ONLY THE VICTOR GETS TO SAVOR THE WORTH OF HIS EXISTENCE.

AND YOU TRY TO KILL EACH OTHER...
愛

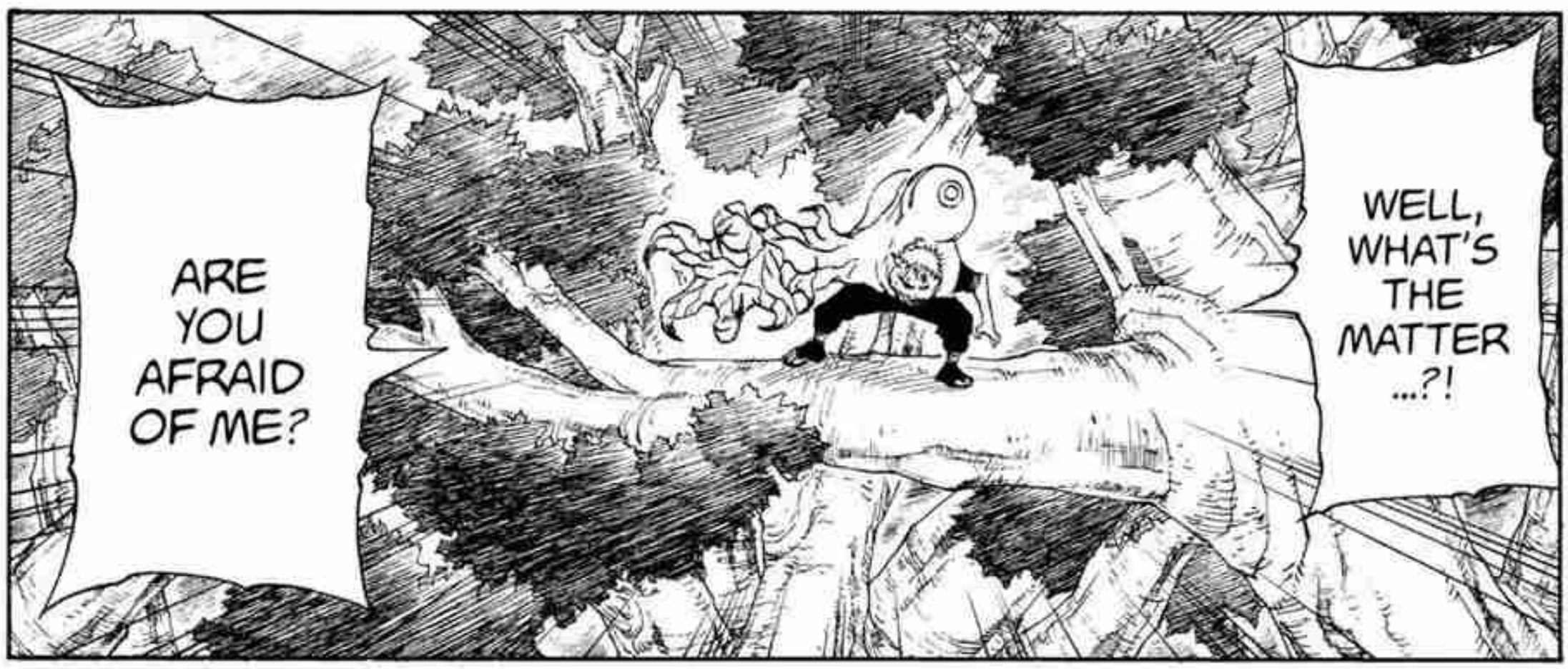
"LET'S FIGHT A DEATH MATCH" AS OPPOSED TO JUST A MATCH, HMM?
...IN OTHER WORDS, WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS...

"AM I TRULY STRONGER THAN THE OPPONENT I FACE WITH THESE HATE-FILLED EYES OF MINE?"

DEEP INSIDE YOUR HEART...
UCHIHA... I KNOW... YOU ACTUALLY DESIRE IT TOO...


YOU'RE WONDERING, "AM I REALLY AS STRONG AS I THOUGHT?"
YOU WANT TO CONFIRM THE WORTH OF YOUR EXISTENCE...

...


ARE YOU AFRAID OF ME?
WELL, WHAT'S THE MATTER ...?!

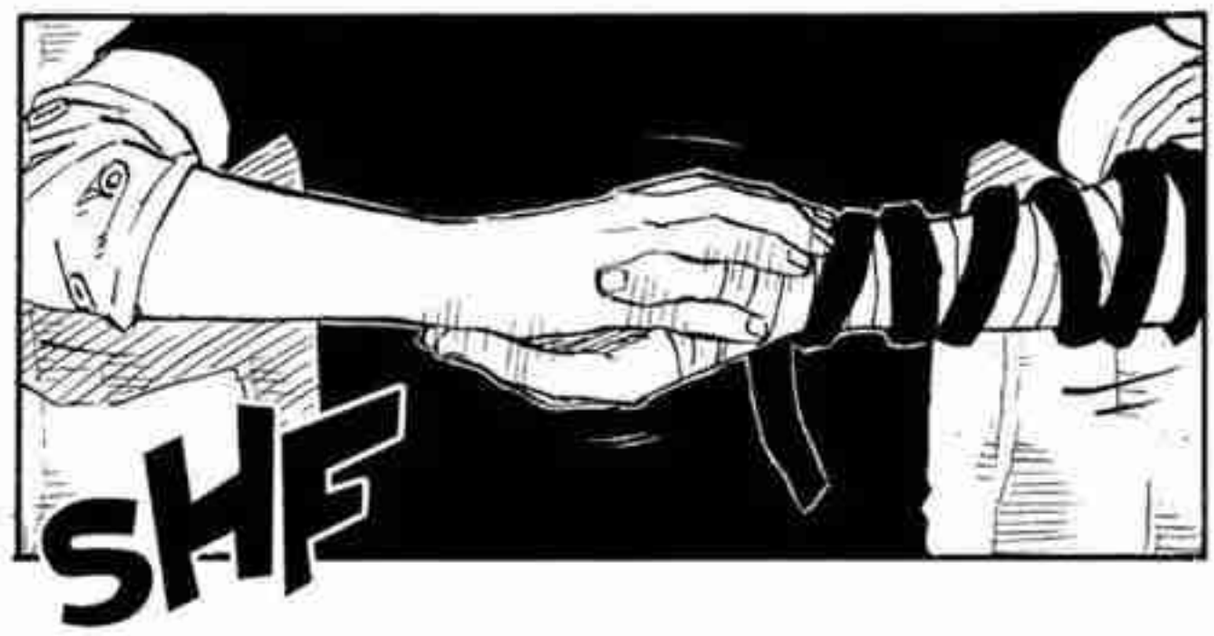
UMF

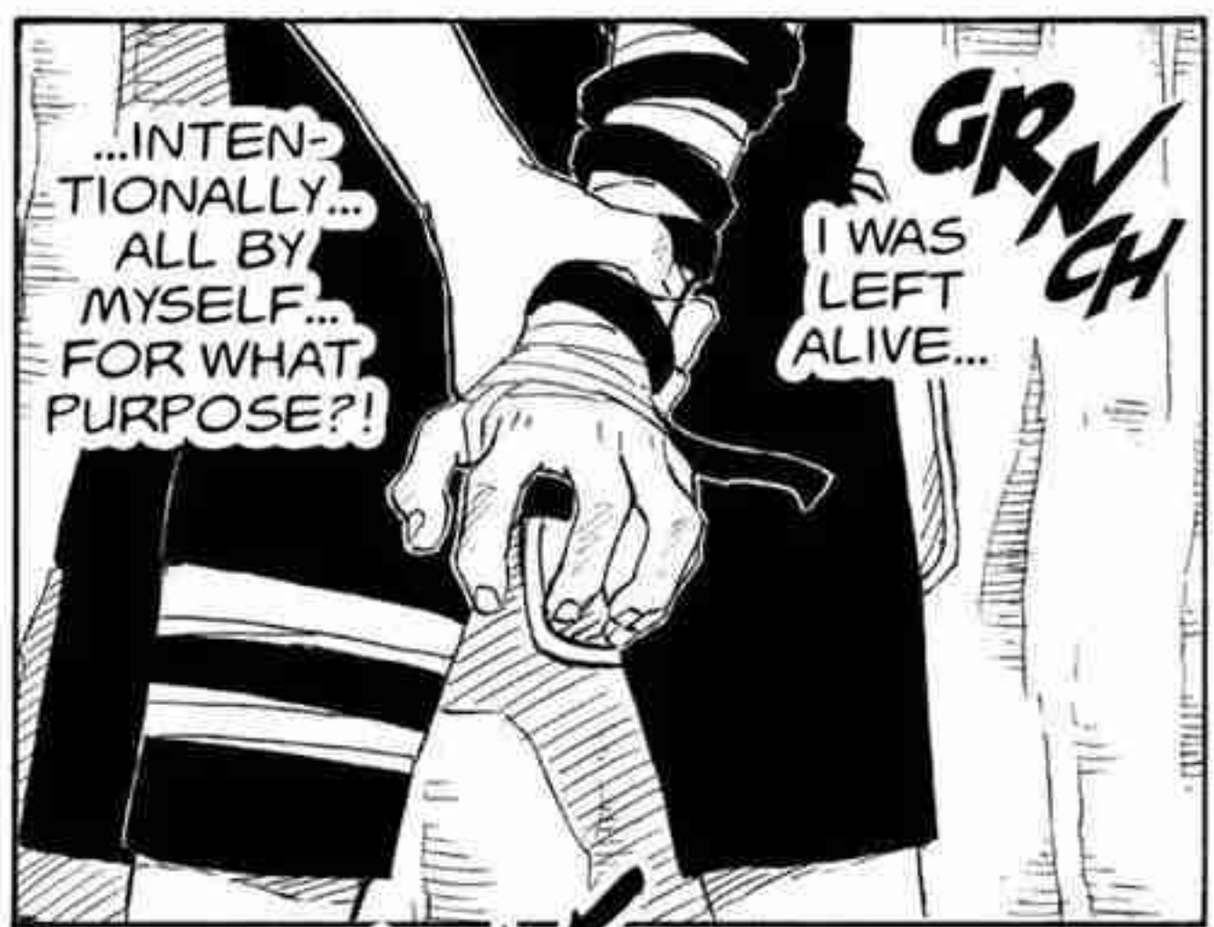
...

IS THIS THE PITIFUL EXTENT OF YOUR EXISTENCE?
HAVE BOTH YOUR HATRED AND YOUR INTENT TO KILL... WAVERED BECAUSE OF YOUR FEAR?
愛

COME ON!!

IF YOU WANT AN ANSWER...





CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP
...AS THE ONE WHO WILL EVENTUALLY DESTROY HIM!
BIG BROTHER ITACHI CHOSE ME AS HIS AVENGER...

!!

RRRRROAR
LAUNCH
LAUNCH

...!!
...
AAAARGH!!
除

TAP
THUMP
...?!
A-HA...
A-HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!

Number 128:

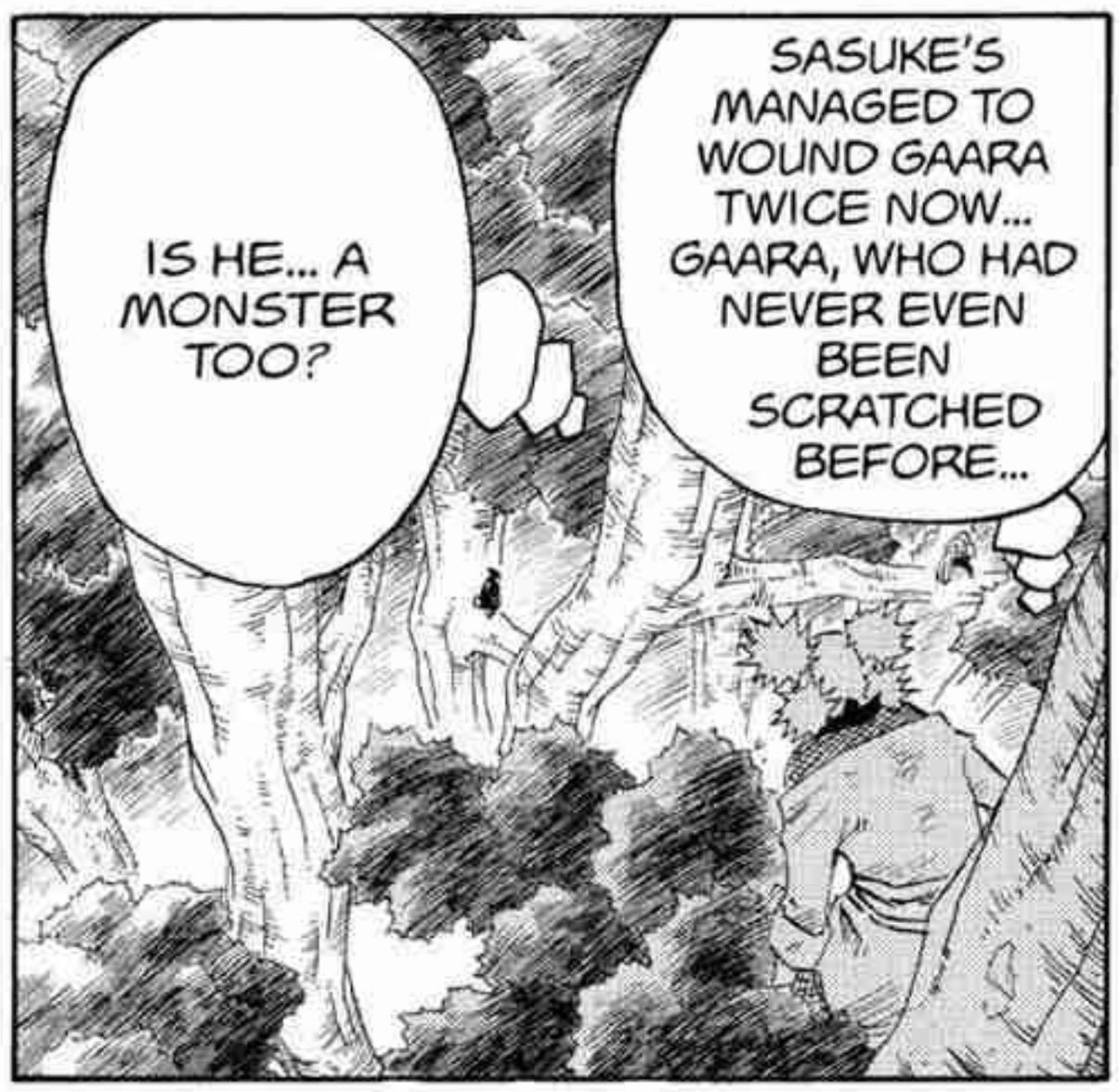
Exceeding One's Limits...!!

A-HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!

HA HA HA HA

...I'LL FEEL EVEN MORE ALIVE THAN EVER!

IF I CAN DEFEAT ONE STRONG ENOUGH TO WOUND ME, ROB HIM OF ALL THAT HE IS...



SLITHER
ARGH!!!

HA, HA, HA! MORE, I WANT MORE!
SLITHER SLITHER

!!

!!

HUF
HUF
HUF

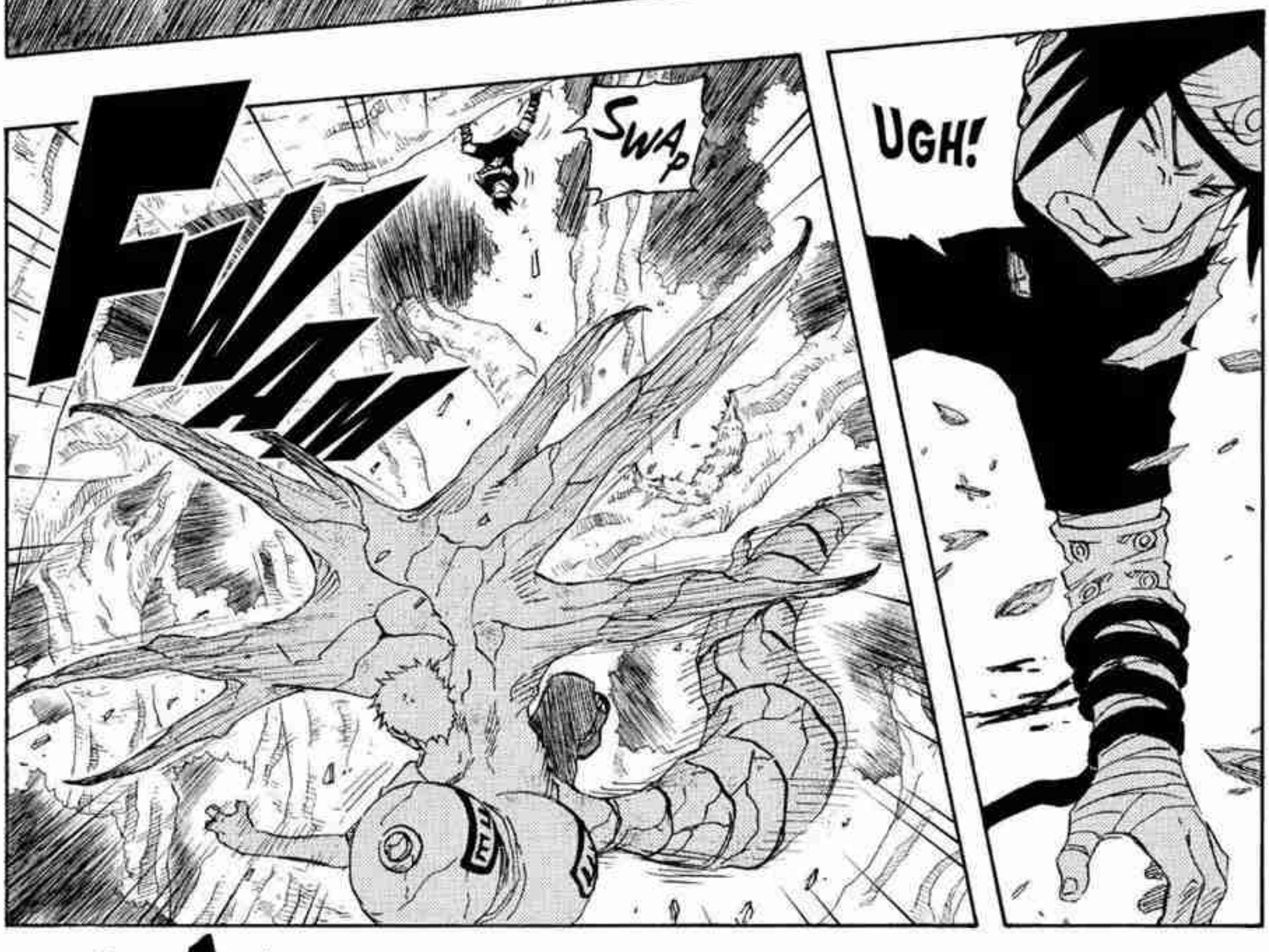
READY FOR ME?!!
CLENCH

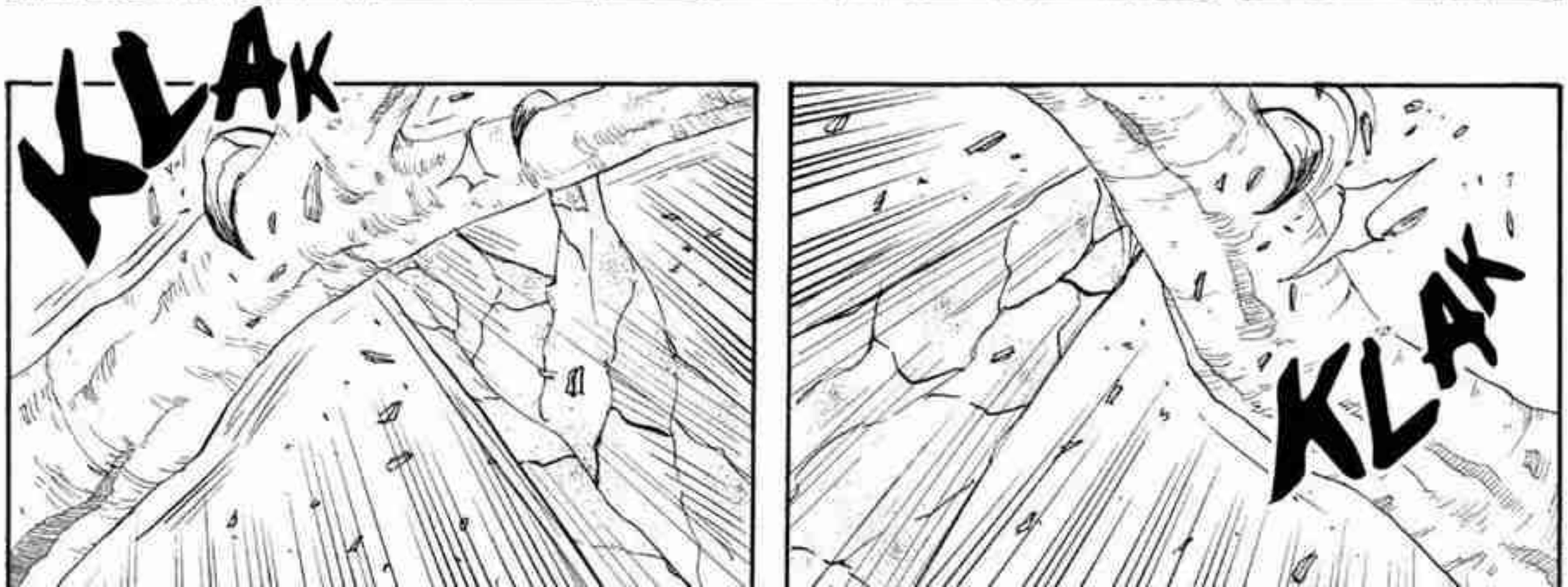
ONE AFTER ANOTHER ...
...WHAT IS HE?!!

PAUNCH

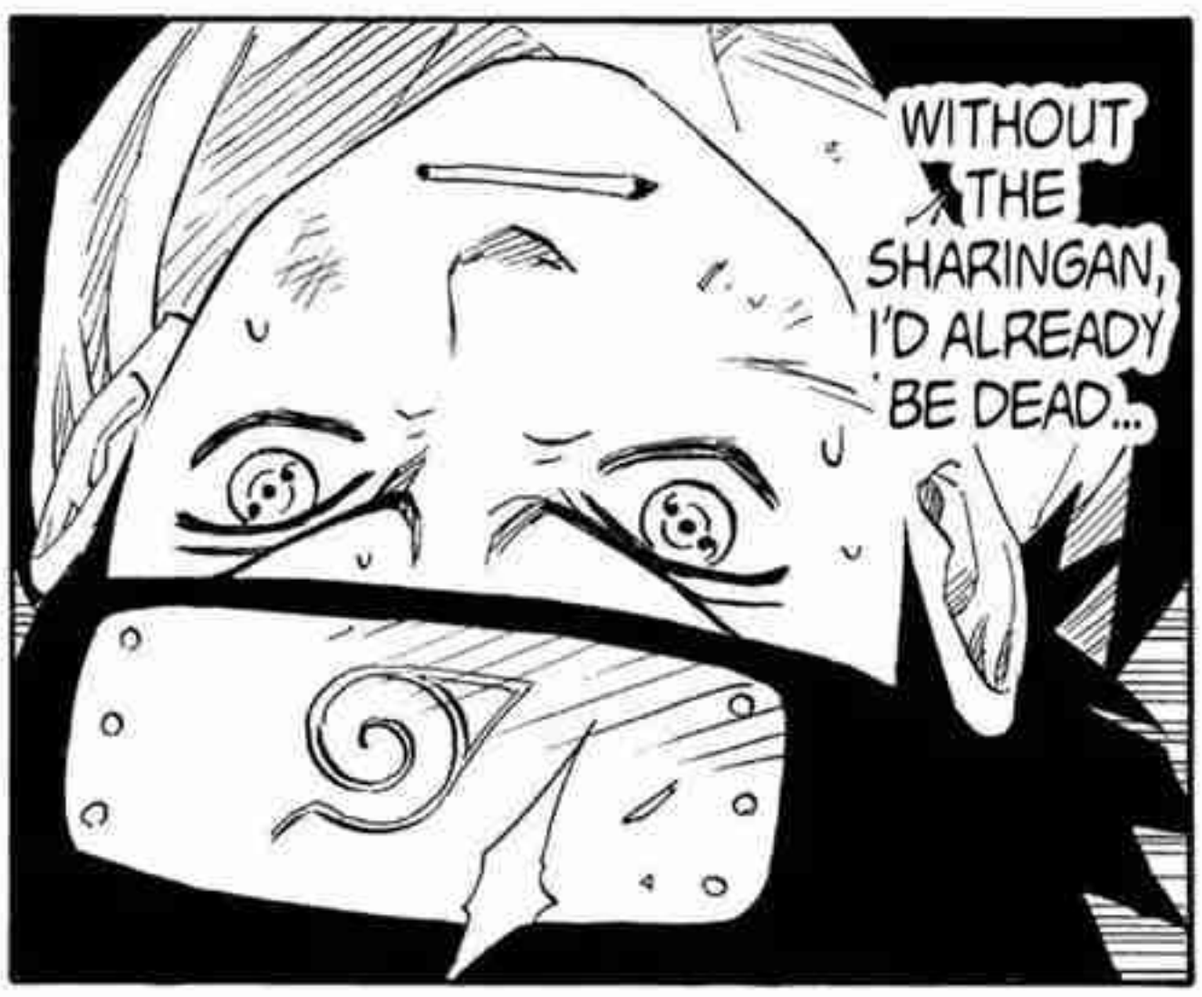
HE'S EVEN FASTER THAN BEFORE!

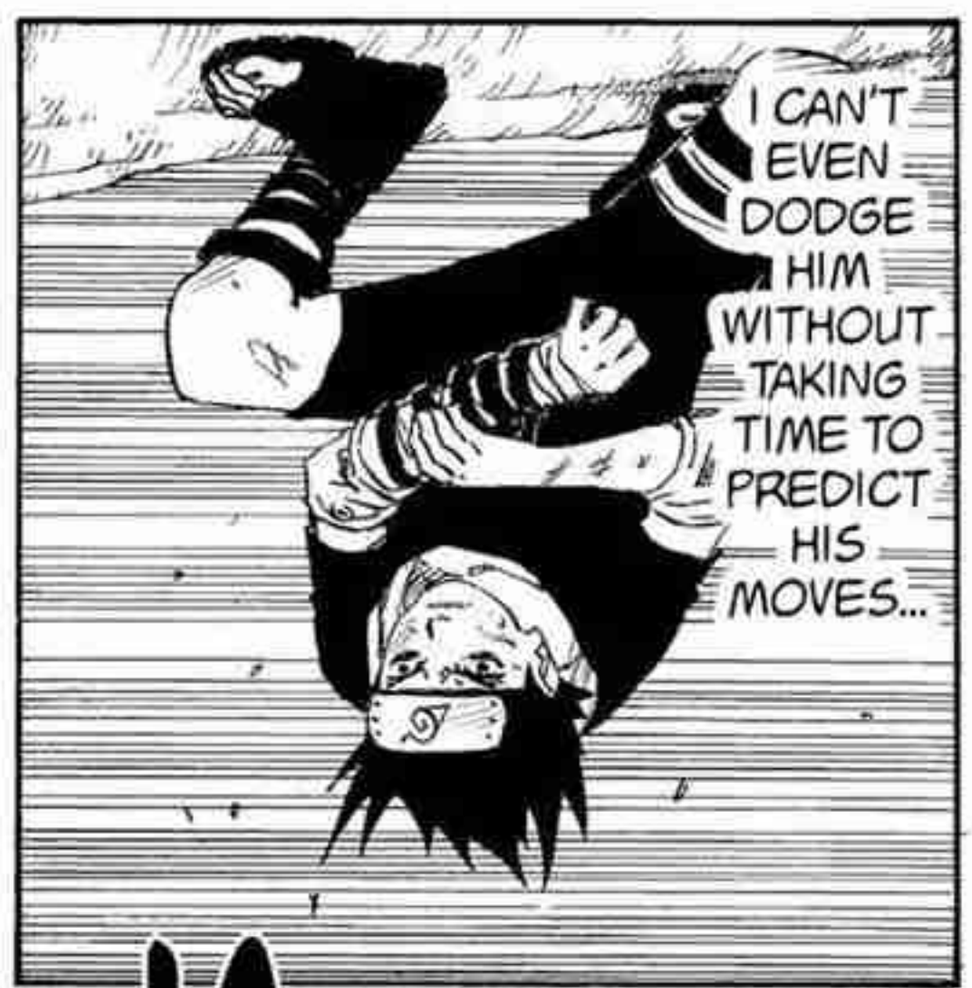
SSSS





SKRETCH





WHOOM!

BLAZ!!!

GÔKAKYÛ NO JUTSU! FIRE STYLE! FIREBALL TECHNIQUE!!

SKA

RINK

FAMD

WHAM
UGH!!
HUF
HUF
HUF
KLA
...AT LEAST FOR NOW.
IT LOOKS LIKE YOUR LIMIT IS TWO CHIDORI...

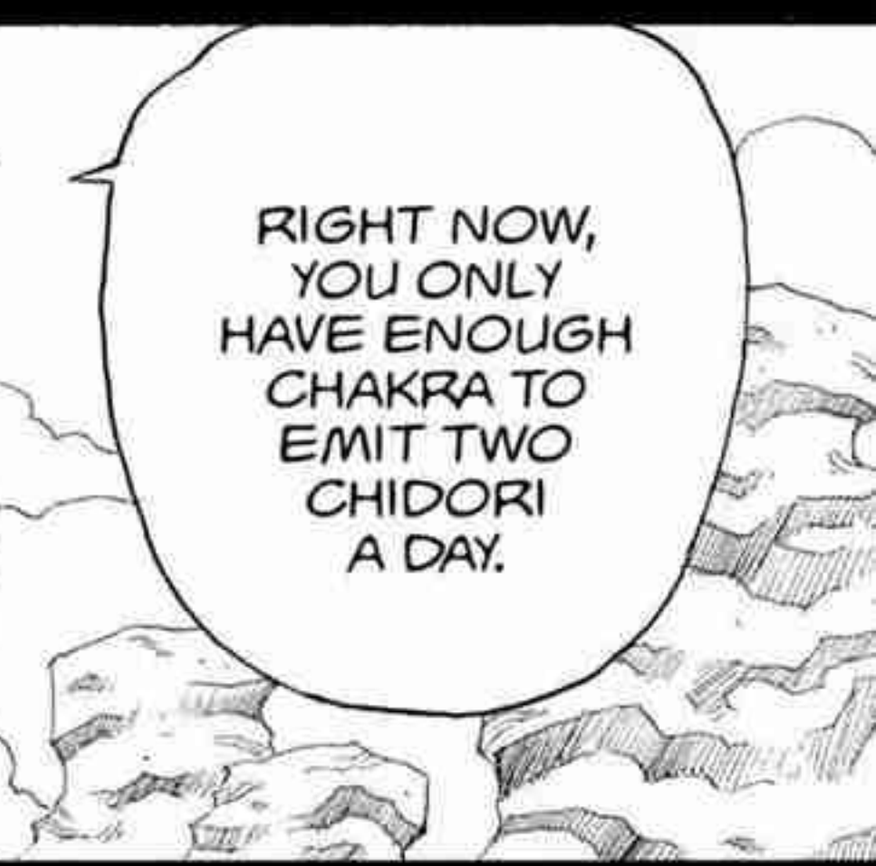
TWITCH
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF

HUF
HUF
HUF

ARGH...!
!!
CRACKLE CRACKLE FIZZ...

HUF
HUF

HUF
HUF


RIGHT NOW, YOU ONLY HAVE ENOUGH CHAKRA TO EMIT TWO CHIDORI A DAY.

...
HUF
HUF
HUF
FIZZLE
FIZZLE

AND USING SHARINGAN AND OTHER JUTSU AT THE SAME TIME...
...IS LIKE COMBUSTING AND EXPENDING ALL OF YOUR BODY'S CHAKRA AT ONCE...
CHIDORI...
...IS A JUTSU YOU CAN ONLY USE JOINTLY WITH THE SHARINGAN IN A BATTLE SITUATION...

...IF I TRY TO PUT OUT MORE THAN TWO?
WHAT WOULD HAPPEN ...

EVEN I...
IF I USE FOUR CHIDORI OR RAIKIRI IN THE SAME DAY, I'LL USE UP ALL OF MY CHAKRA...
BUT! YOU'RE STILL AMAZING...

...

THE THIRD ONE WON'T START... AND LISTEN CAREFULLY!
...

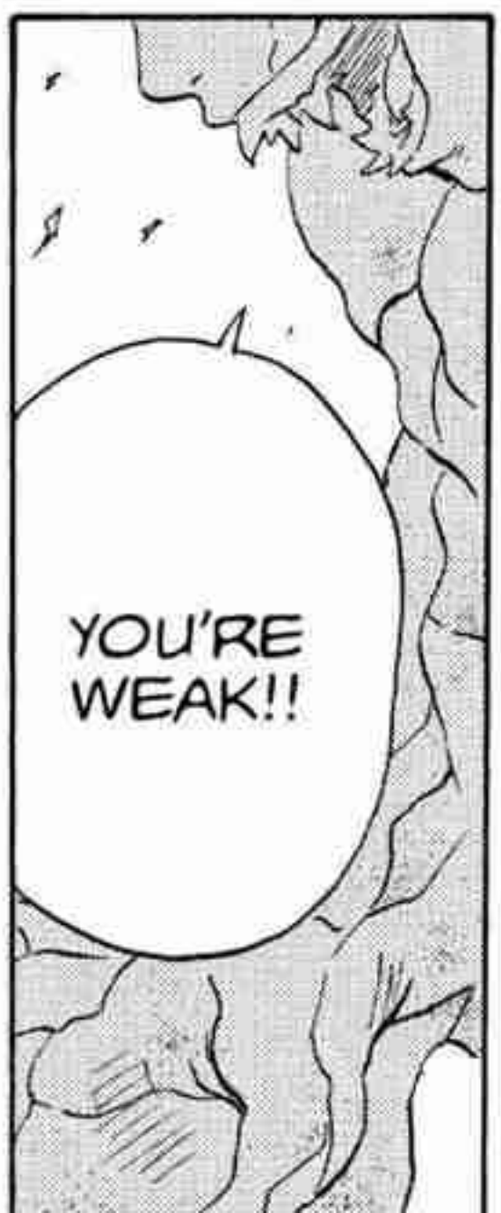
NOT ONLY WILL THE JUTSU NOT WORK, BUT YOUR CHAKRA WILL BE DRAINED TO ZERO...
IF YOU TRY TO FORCIBLY INITIATE THE JUTSU...

...ESPECIALLY FOR YOU...
EVEN IF YOU SURVIVE IT... I GUARANTEE THAT IT WON'T BE GOOD FOR YOU.

AND IF YOU'RE NOT CAREFUL, YOU'LL DIE.

(HUF)
(HUF)
(HUF)

FWUMP

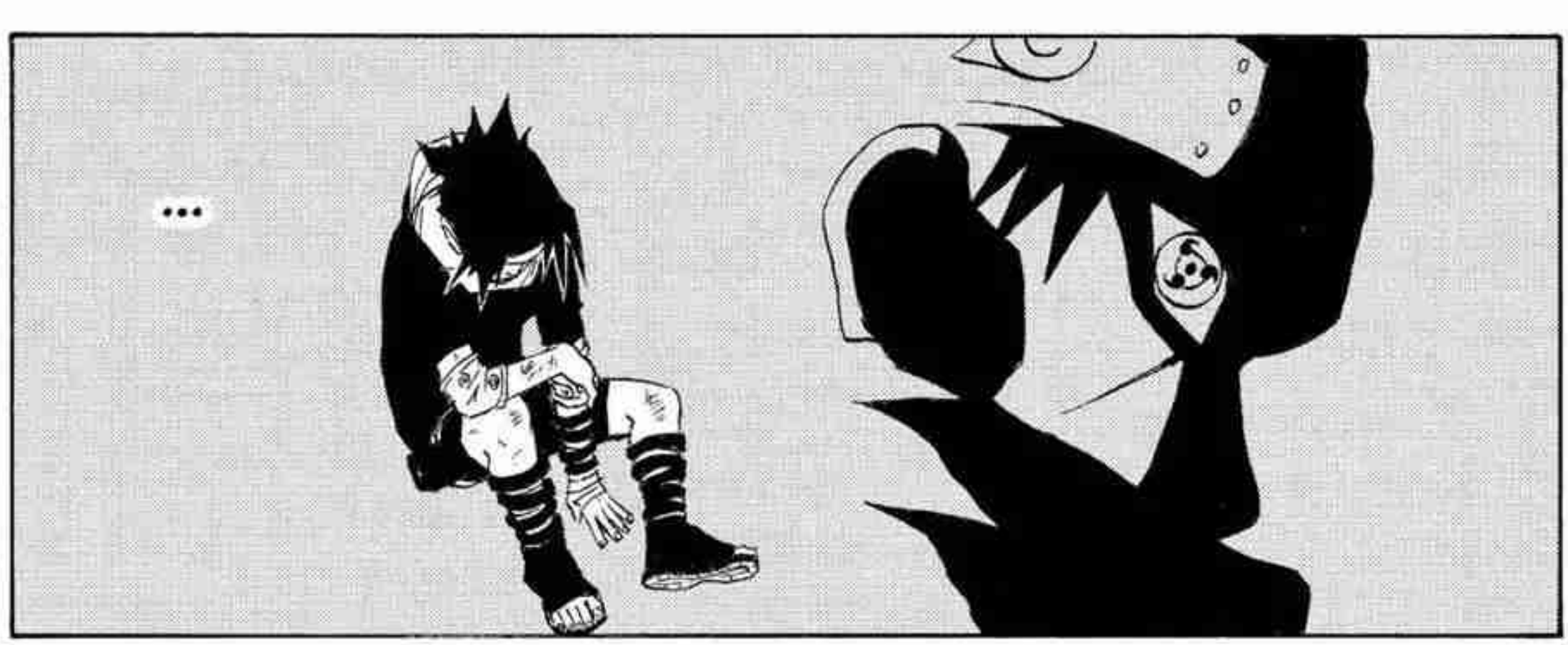

YOU'RE WEAK!!

LET ME TELL YOU...
IS THIS ALL YOUR EXISTENCE IS WORTH?

THE STRENGTH OF ONE'S HATRED IS THE STRENGTH OF ONE'S WILL TO KILL...
AND THE STRENGTH OF ONE'S WILL TO KILL IS THE STRENGTH OF VENGEANCE.

...

'CUZ YOU'RE NAÏVE...
AND YOUR HATRED IS NOT STRONG ENOUGH.


...

DO YOU UNDER-STAND ME...?

SHUT UP...

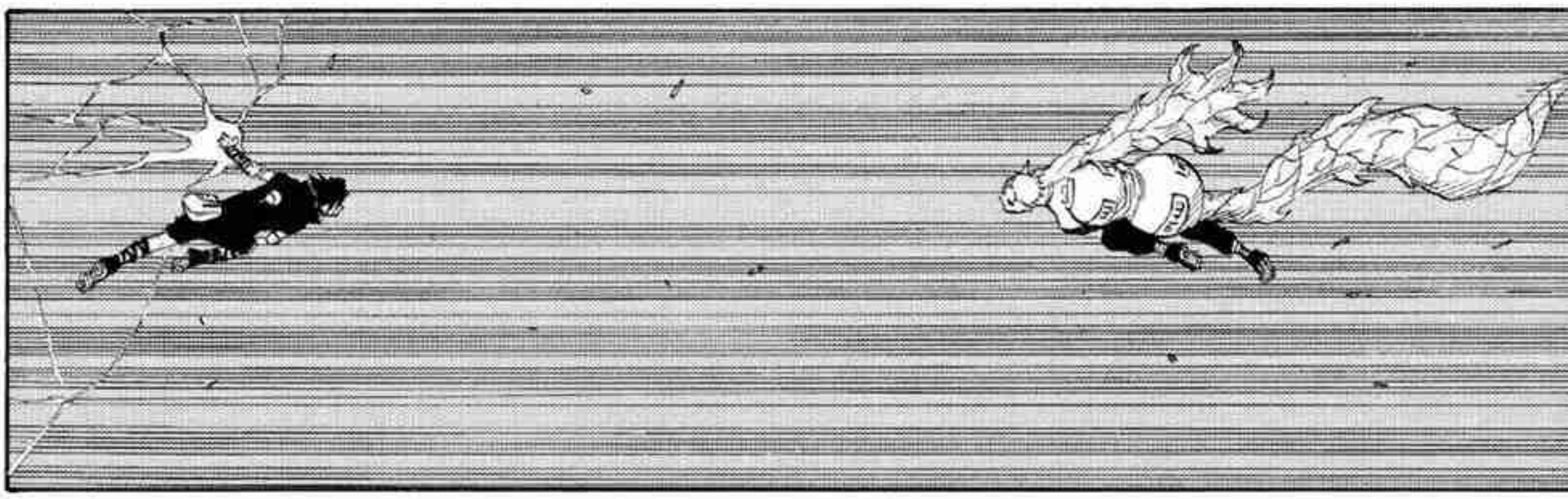
YOUR HATRED WILL NEVER MATCH MINE!!

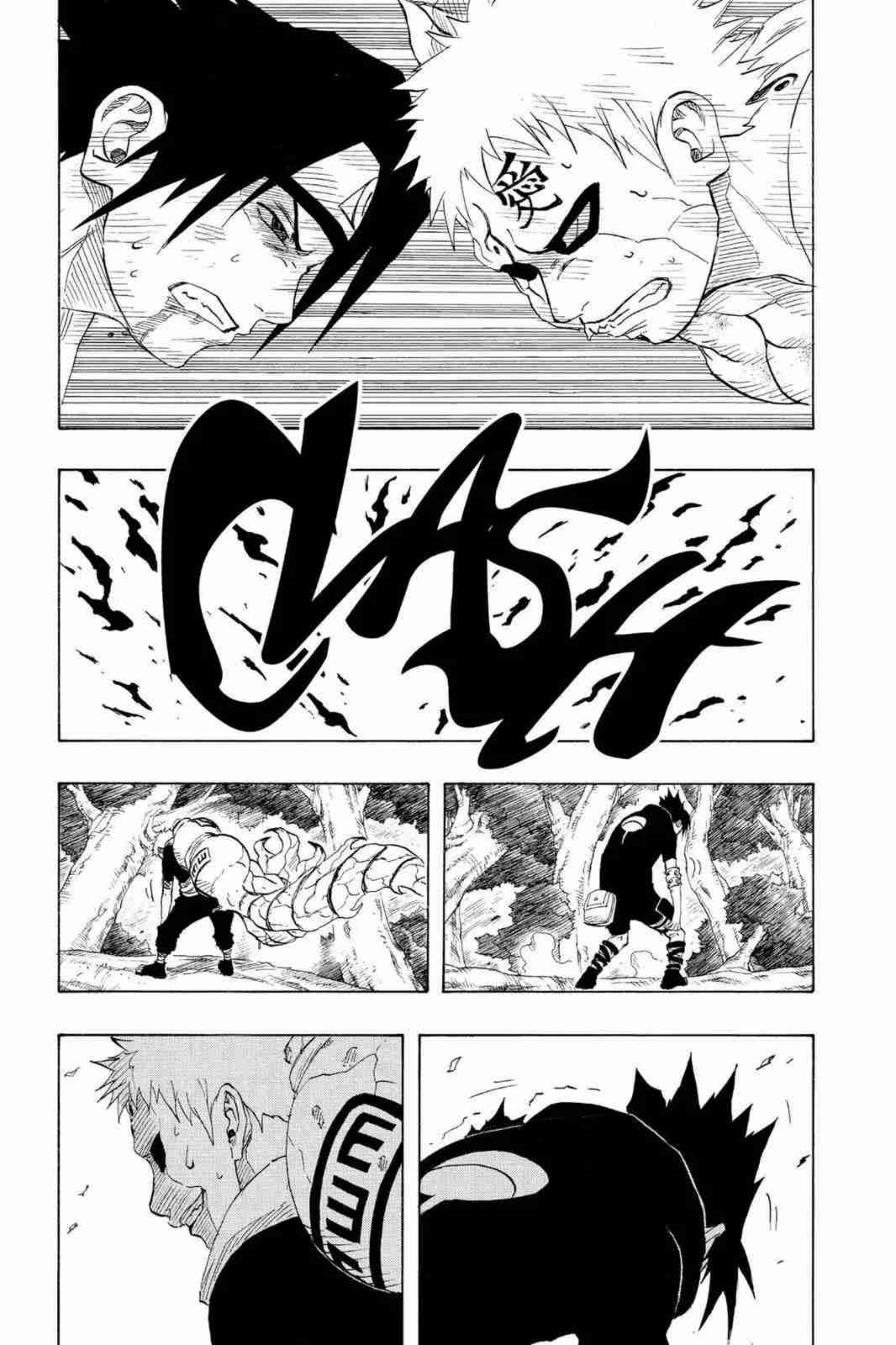
YOU ARE WEAKER!!

IT MEANS...

BANG

ZAP




殺
ガキン

THUNK

CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE

GLURRG
HUNH...

UGGGGH...!!

SLITHER

THOOB
...THE CURSE MARK, AGAIN...

THUD
UGH!

AGH...! MY BODY, CAN'T MOVE...
!!

WHOOSH
RRRROAR!!

ドガ
ドガ
!!

FUMP

KER THWACK

TAP
SASUKE!!

TUMP

HUF
HUF
HUF
TMP

!

...
HUF
HUF

Number 129: To Hurt...!! zz

UNH... UGH...

AND MASTER KAKASHI TOLD ME I DIDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THE MARK!
HE WAS PROBABLY FIGHTING RECKLESSLY... JUST LIKE THAT TIME!!
ARGGGGH

TH... THIS IS...

WHAT IS IT!!

S... SAKURA...?
SAKURA!

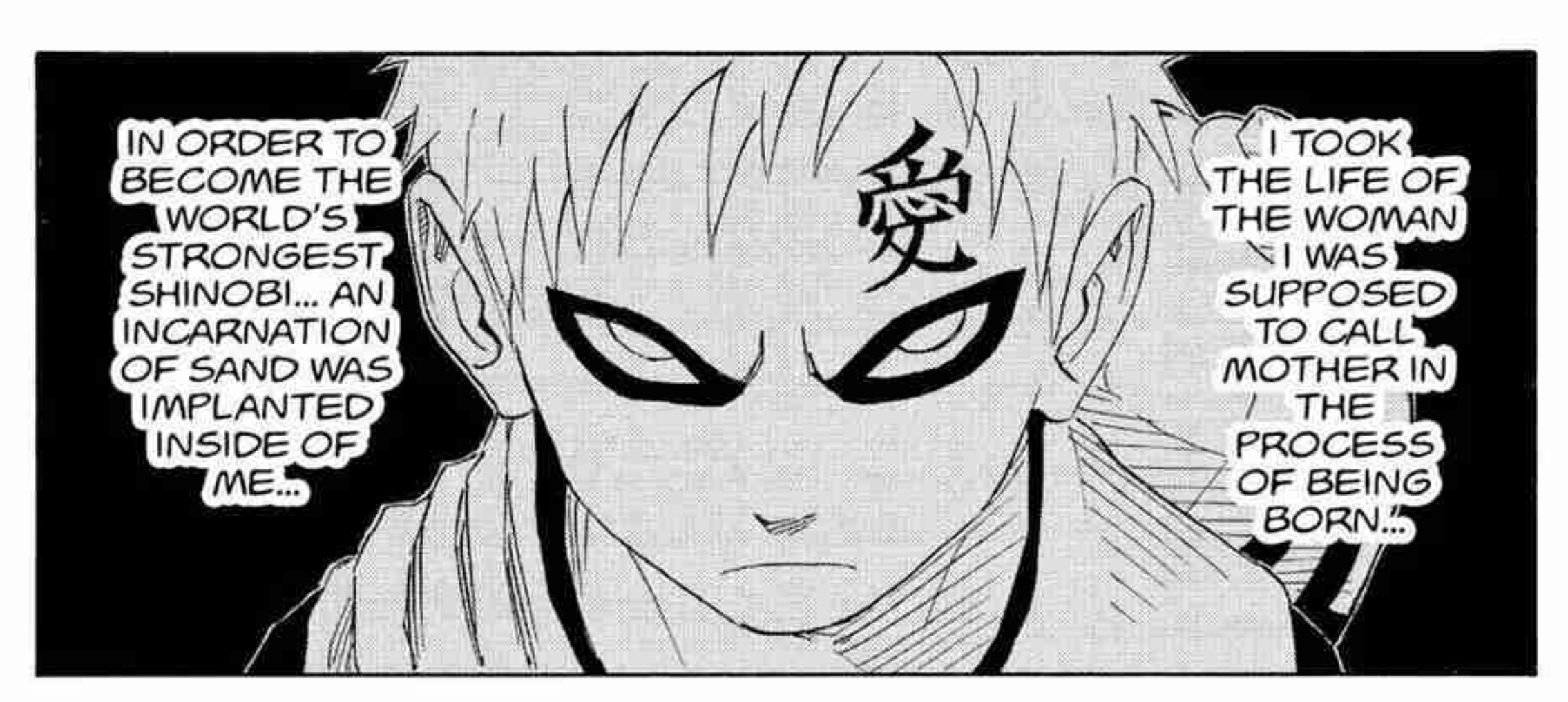
!
GRRRR

WHO'S... THAT?!!

READ
THIS
WAY

HE'S THE ONE... WHO KNOCKED SASUKE DOWN...
!

BUT IT'S THAT FELLOW, GAARA!
HIS APPEAR-ANCE MAY HAVE CHANGED...
SNIFF
SNIFF


IN ORDER TO BECOME THE WORLD'S STRONGEST SHINOBI... AN INCARNATION OF SAND WAS IMPLANTED INSIDE OF ME...
愛
I TOOK THE LIFE OF THE WOMAN I WAS SUPPOSED TO CALL MOTHER IN THE PROCESS OF BEING BORN...

...A MONSTER!
愛
I WAS BORN...

I CAN SEE THAT!!
I'M NOT A BATTLE TYPE NINJA DOG, SO DON'T COUNT ON ME!!
HARRUMPH!

SO THAT'S... THAT "MONSTER," EH...

...AND SOMEHOW GET SASUKE TO MASTER KAKASHI...!!
IN ANY CASE, WE'VE GOT TO GET THROUGH THIS CRISIS...
UGH... UNNH.

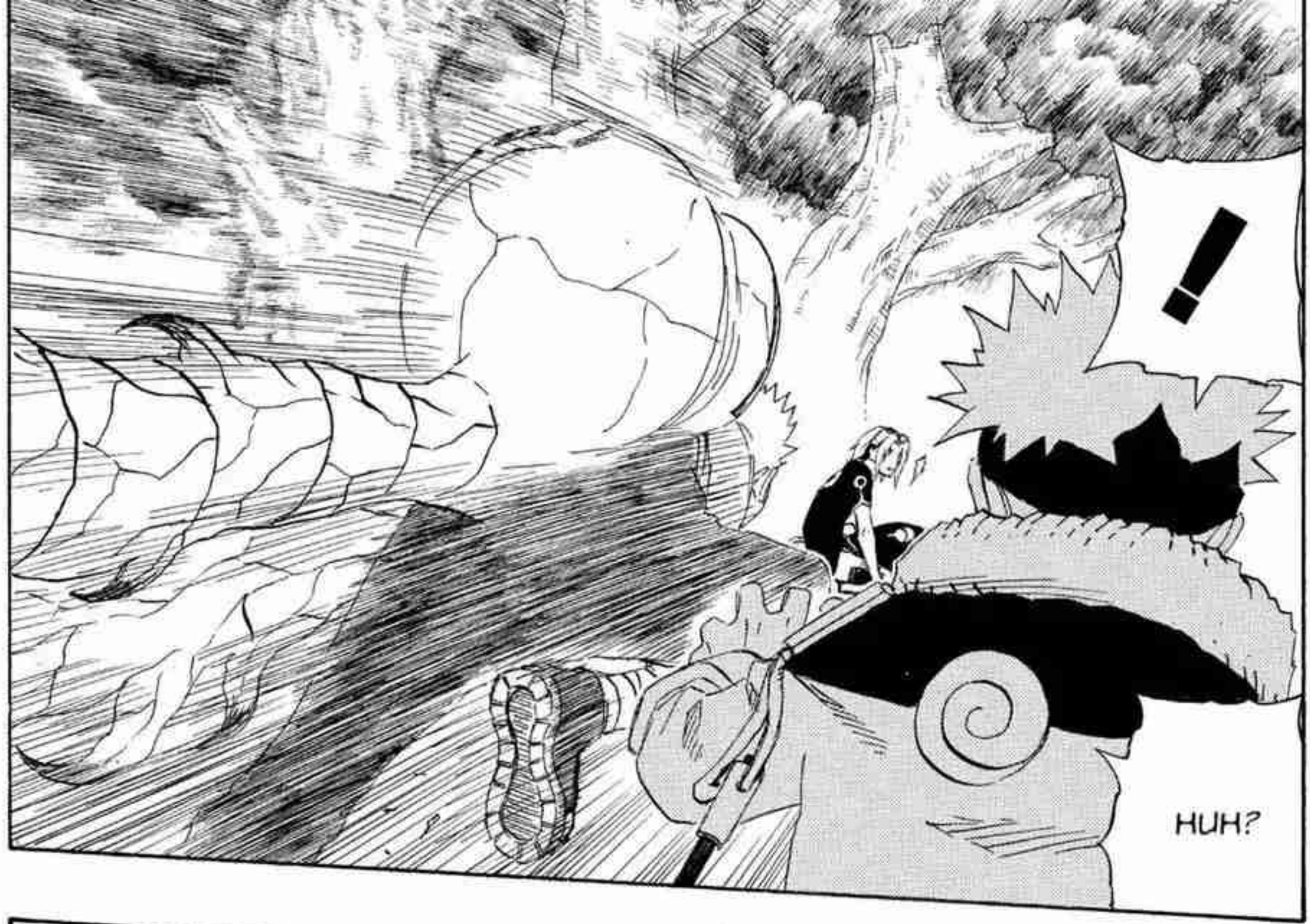
...

...ESPECIALLY FOR YOU...
EVEN IF YOU SURVIVE IT... I GUARANTEE THAT IT WON'T BE GOOD FOR YOU.
...YOU MEAN THE CURSE MARK...?

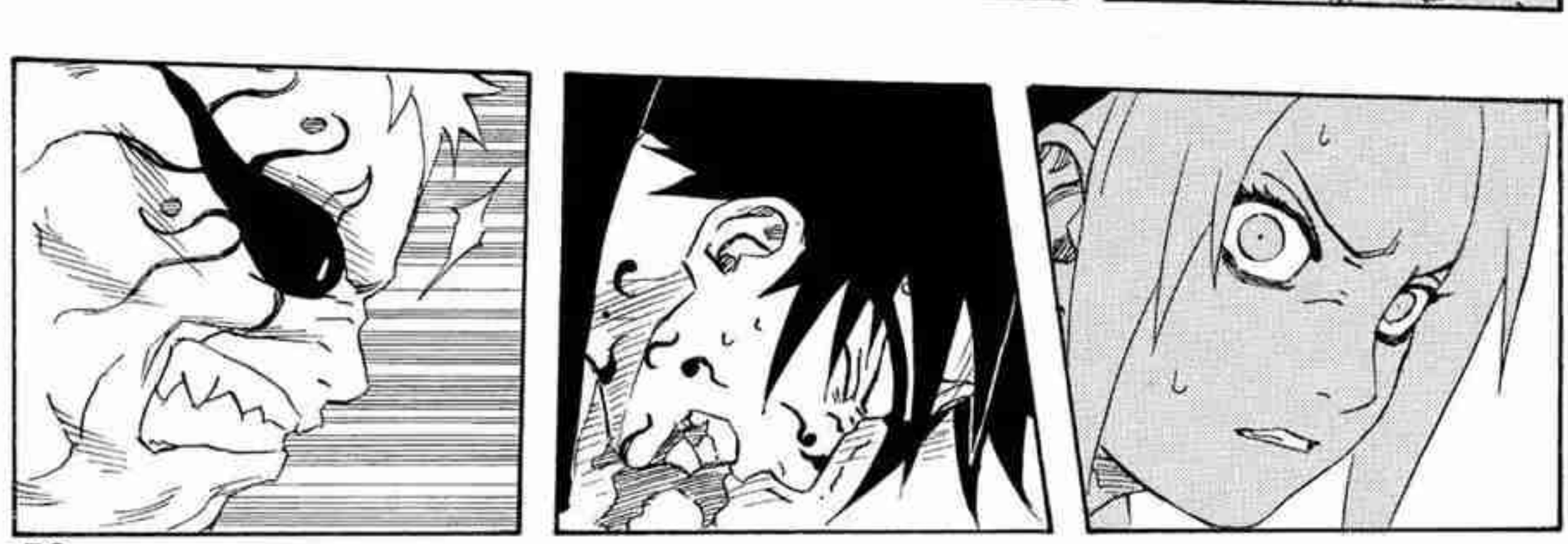
UGH... UNNH...

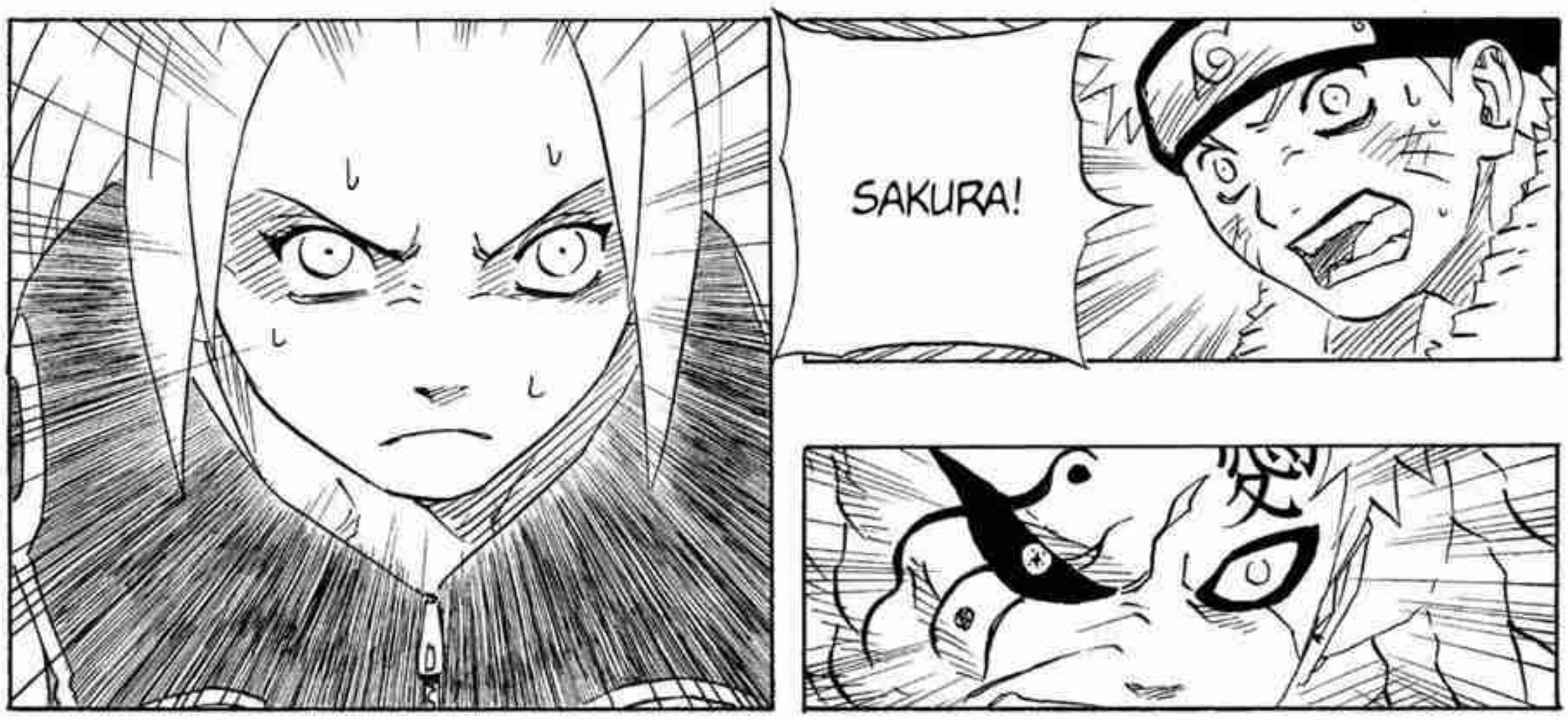
READ THIS WAY
AND THEN... YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO WIN AGAINST ITACHI.
HUF
HUF
IF YOU GIVE IN TO HATRED AND RELY ON THE POWER OF THAT CURSE MARK...
...YOUR MATURATION WILL STOP RIGHT THERE.
HACK!!
...I'VE GOT TO SUPPRESS THE MARK...!
...
SASUKE!!

...THEN I WILL NOT CEASE TO EXIST.


!
HUH?

UCHIHA SASUKE!!
DIE!
!




SAKURA!

AIEE!!

THWA

SLAM

ARGH!!

KLIP

THROB
愛
UGH!

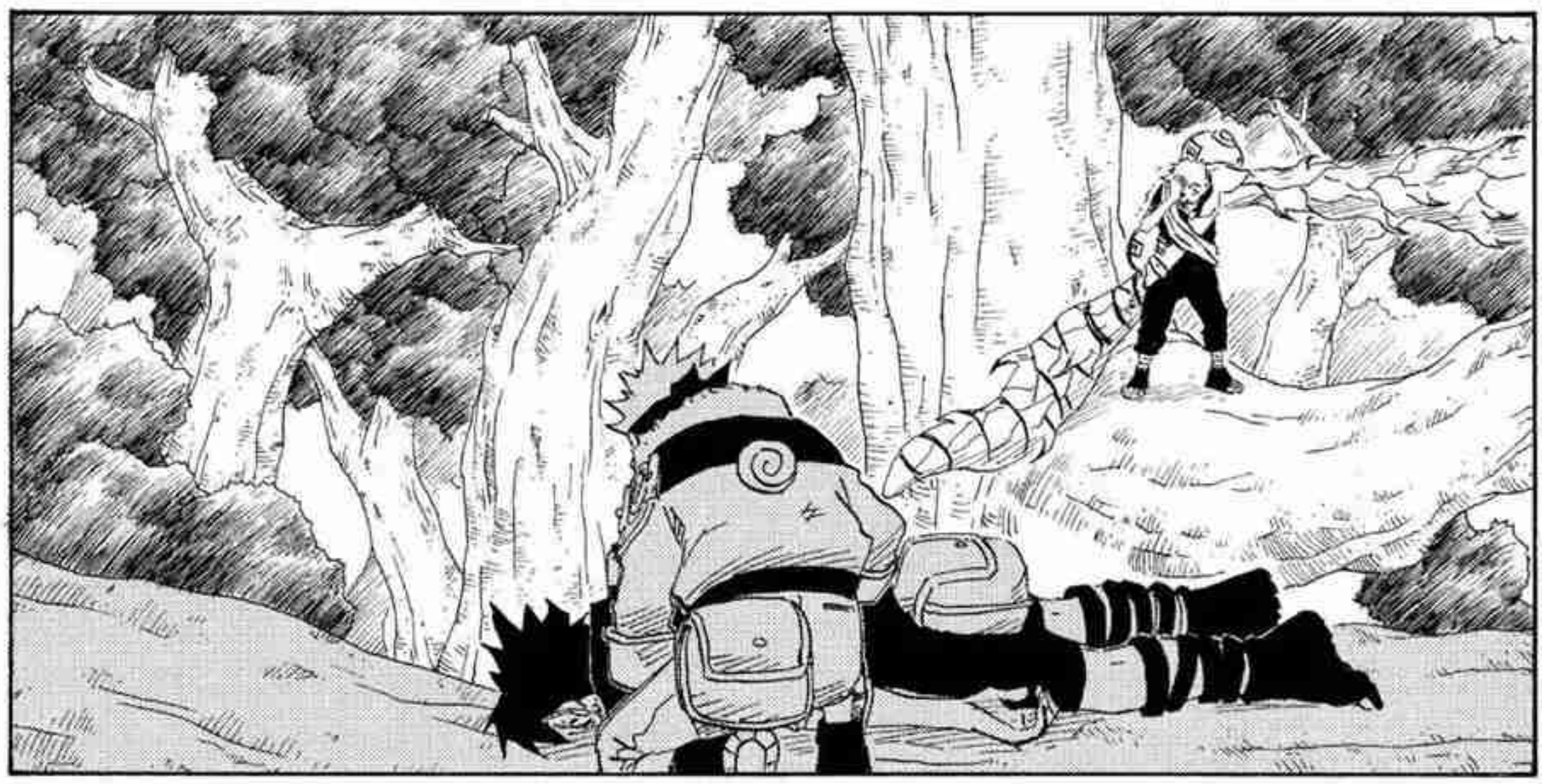
TAK

SWF
ZOOM

...THAT GIRL TRIED TO STAND UP TO GAARA...!

SAKURA!!

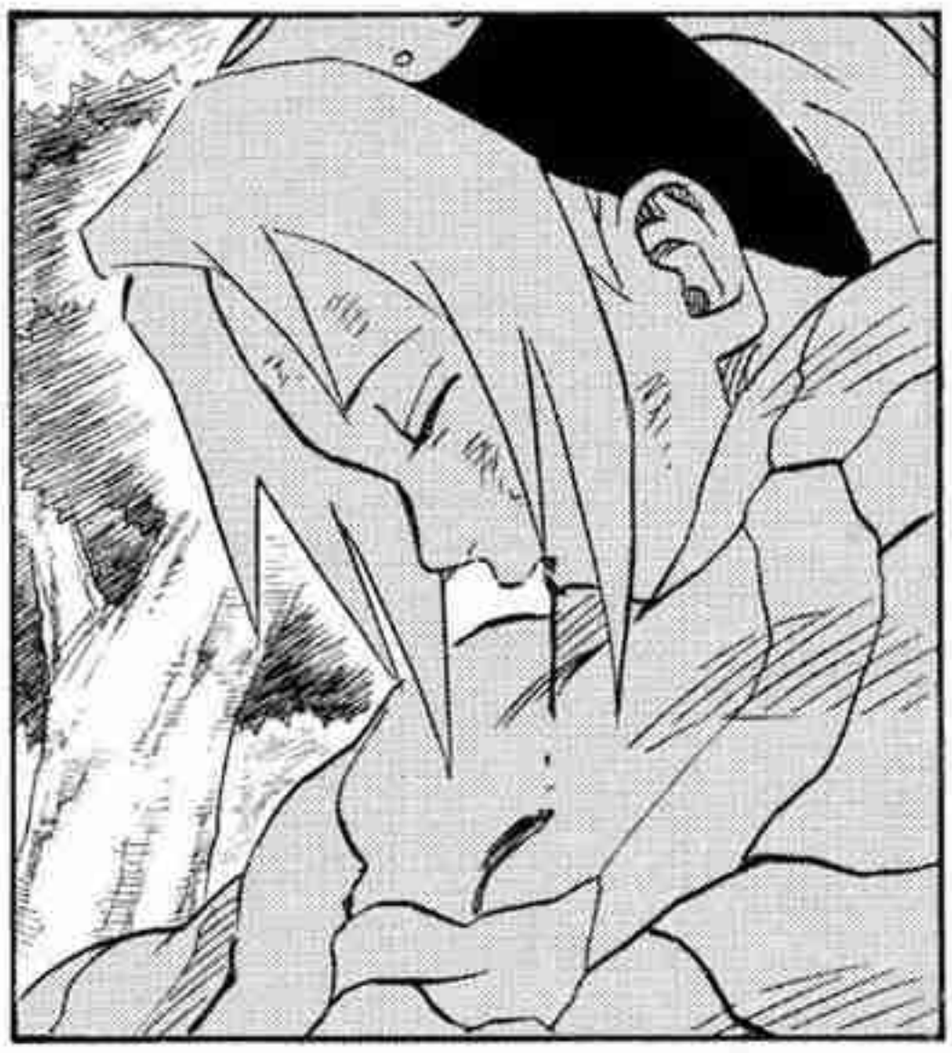
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?!!
DARN! DARN!



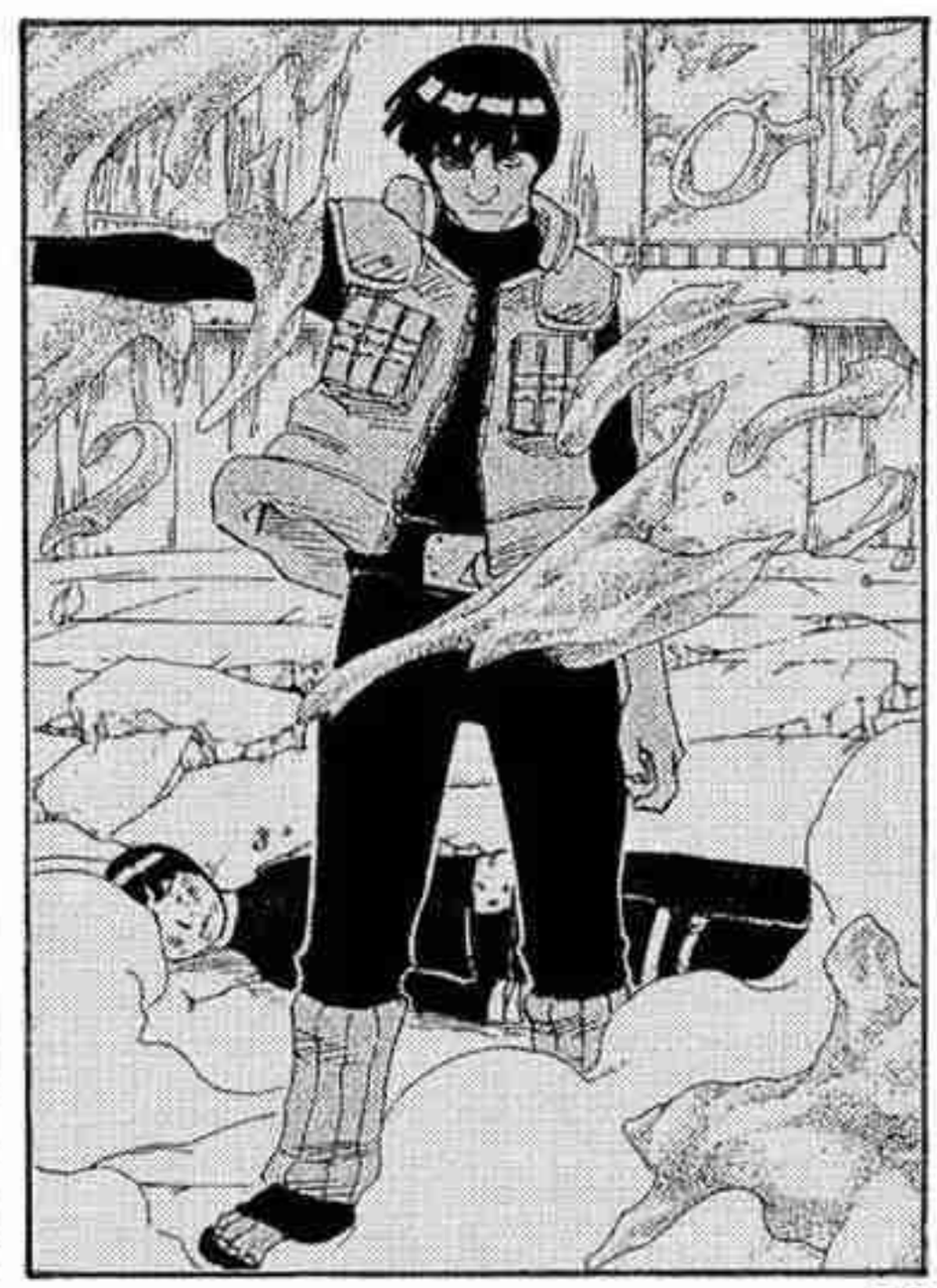
...!

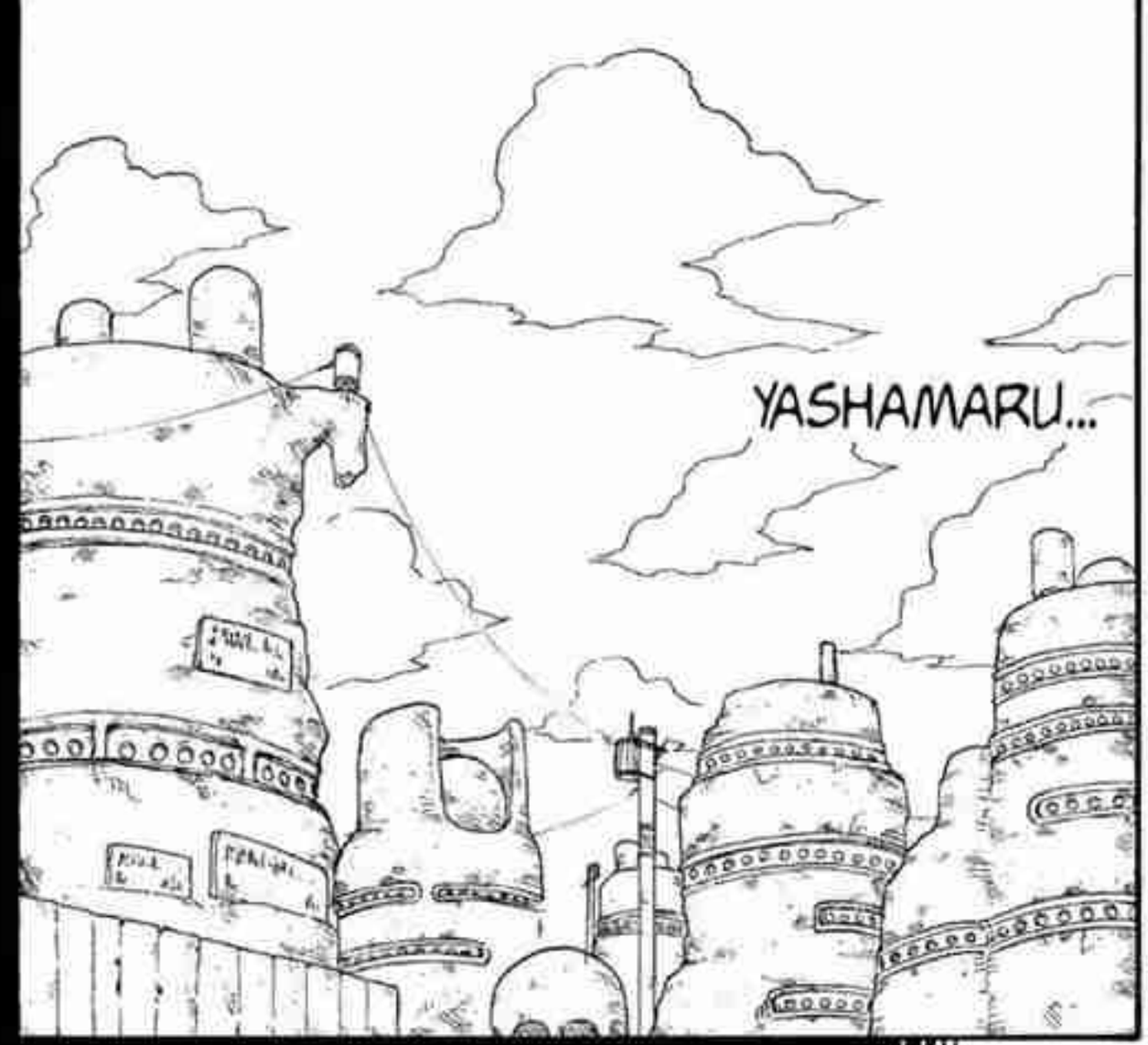
...NOW, HELP ME FEEL ALIVE.
I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN HANDLE THIS GUY...
GULP

UNH...
UNH...



WHY...?

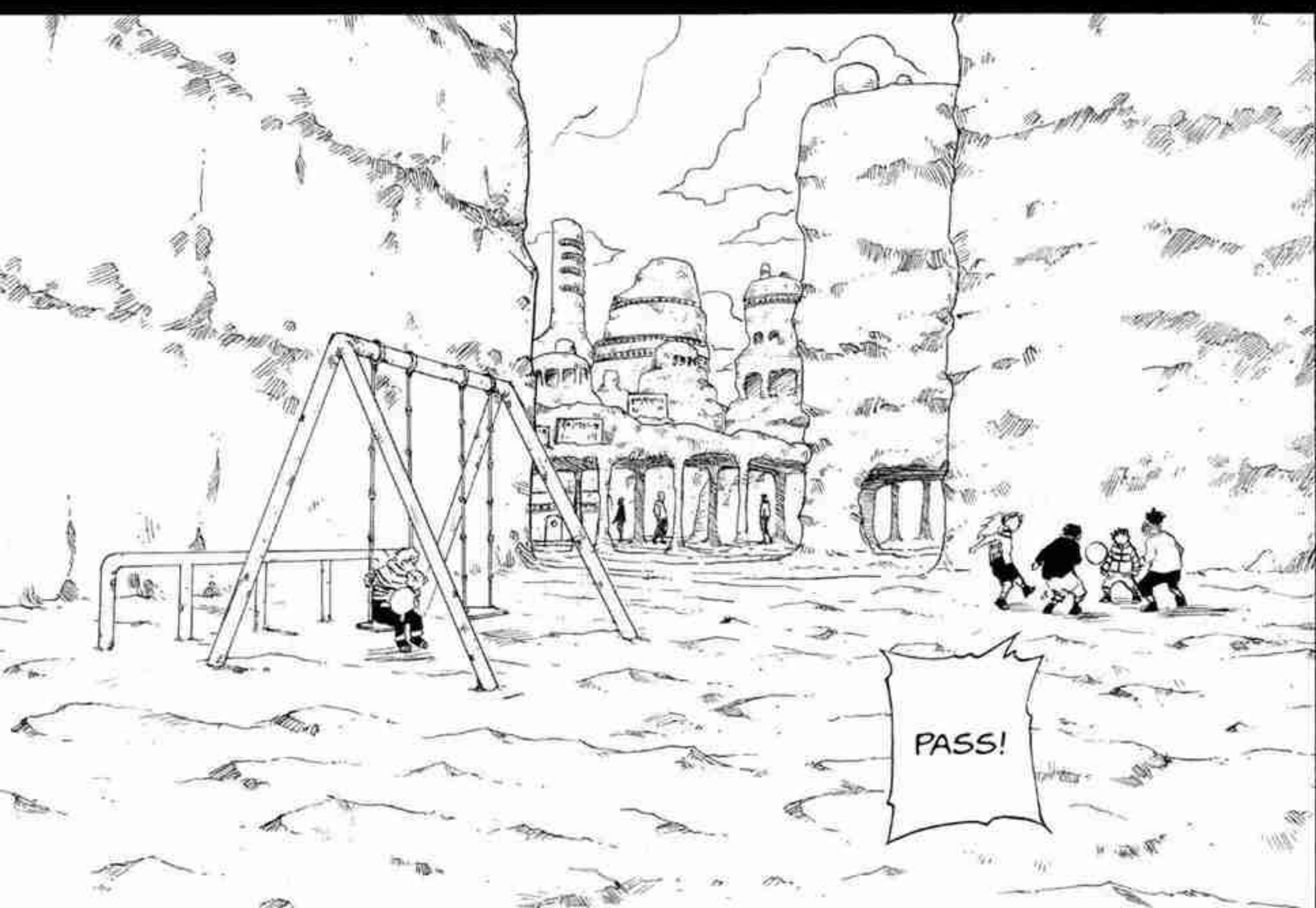



YASHAMARU...

...
UNNH...

YAH!!

KICK
THUMP


PASS!

NONE OF US CAN DO THE WALL-CLIMBING TECHNIQUE...

WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO?!

OH--! MAN!

SHOOO

SHOOO...

!

Y... YOU'RE...!

!!

SHF
RUN--!
WAAAAH--!!
DASH
DASH
GAARA OF THE SAND...
I...IT'S GAARA!
R...
!
DON'T GO AWAY!!
WAIT!

I DON'T WANT TO BE ALONE ANYMORE ...

SLAM

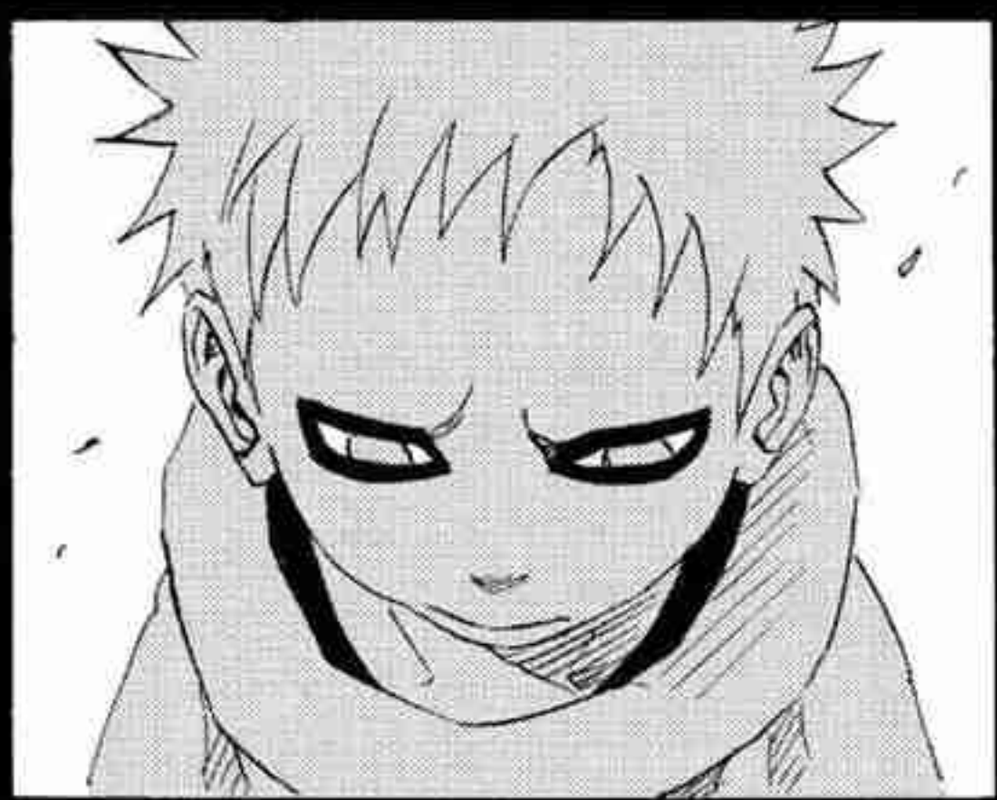
WAAAH!

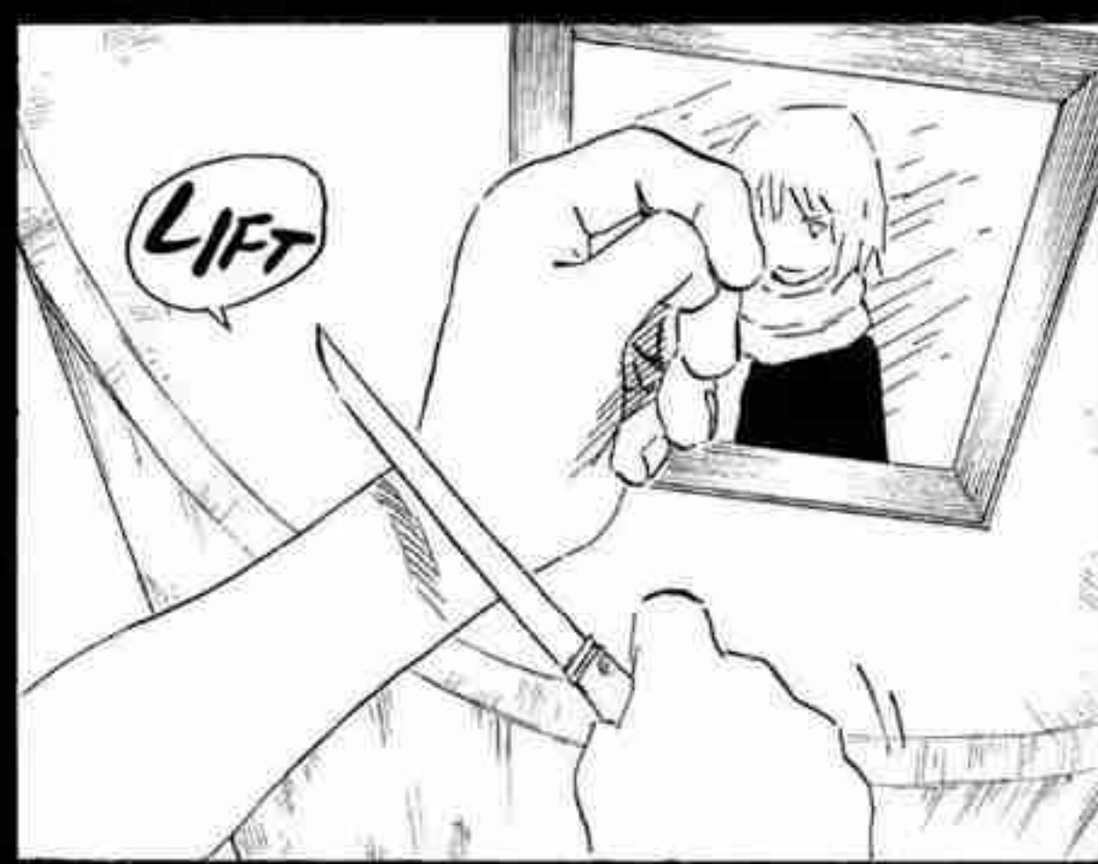
HELP--!

SLAM

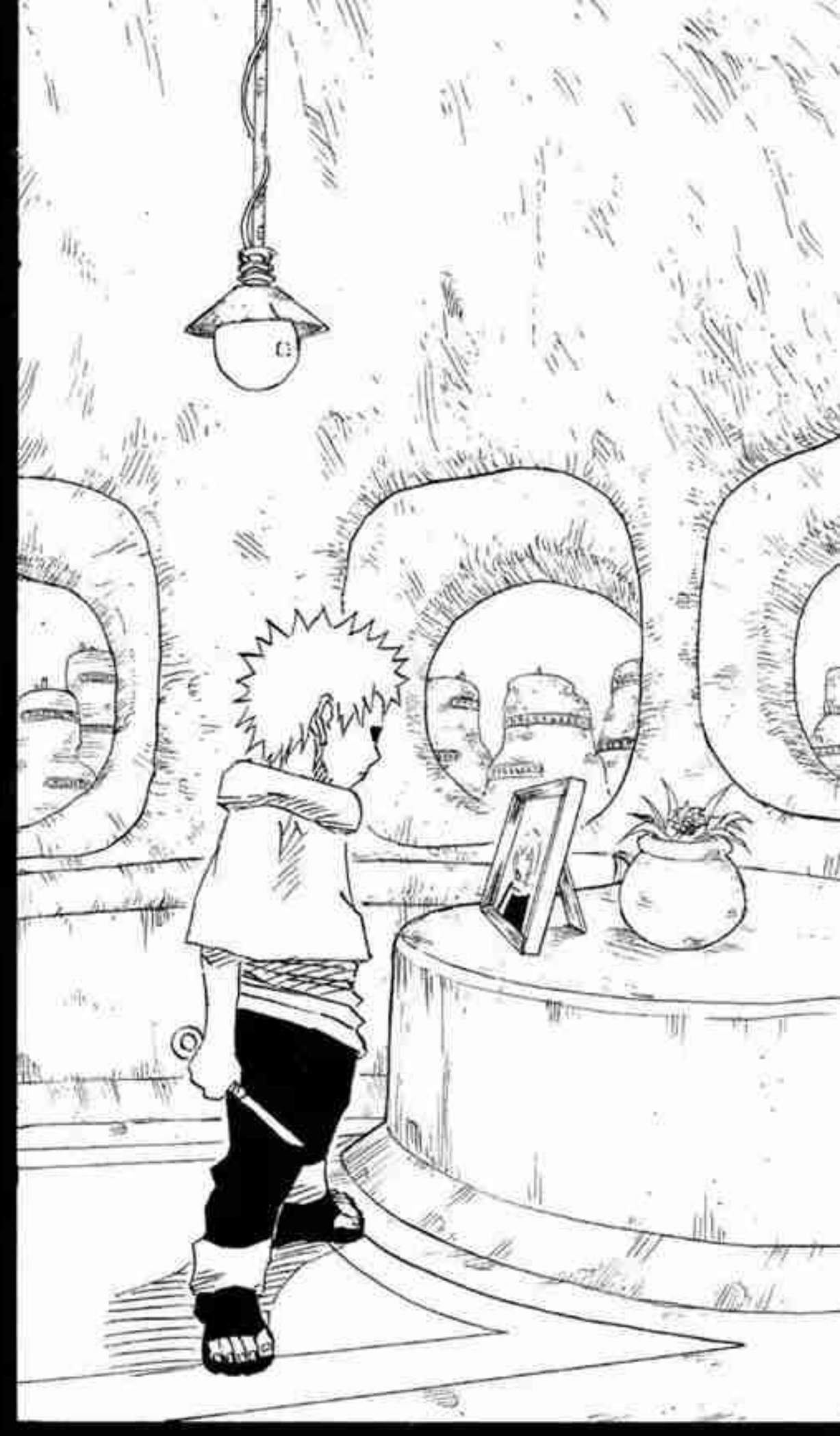
LORD GAARA, PLEASE CALM YOURSELF!!

U...UNH...



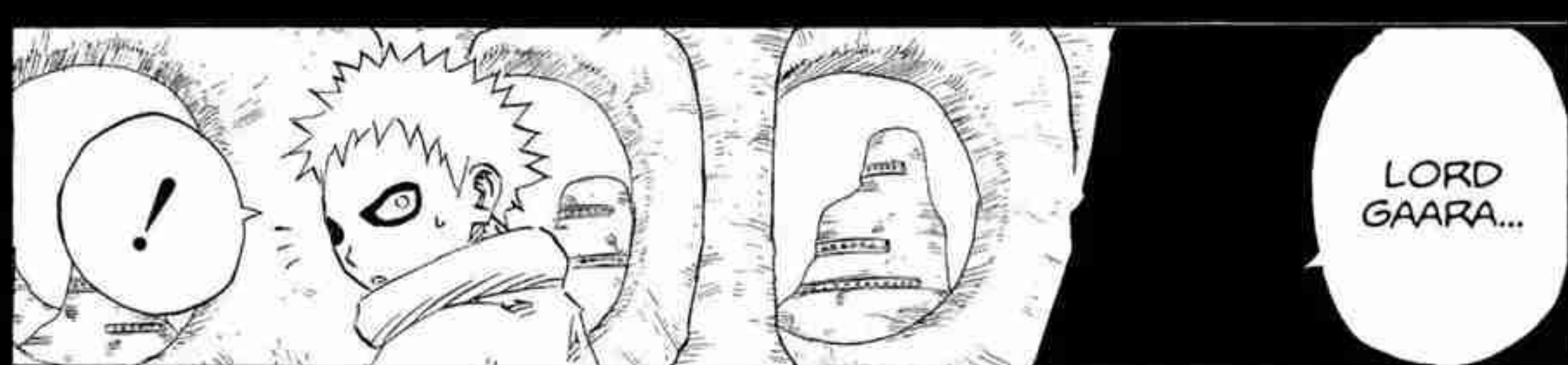

LIFT

SLOOSH...

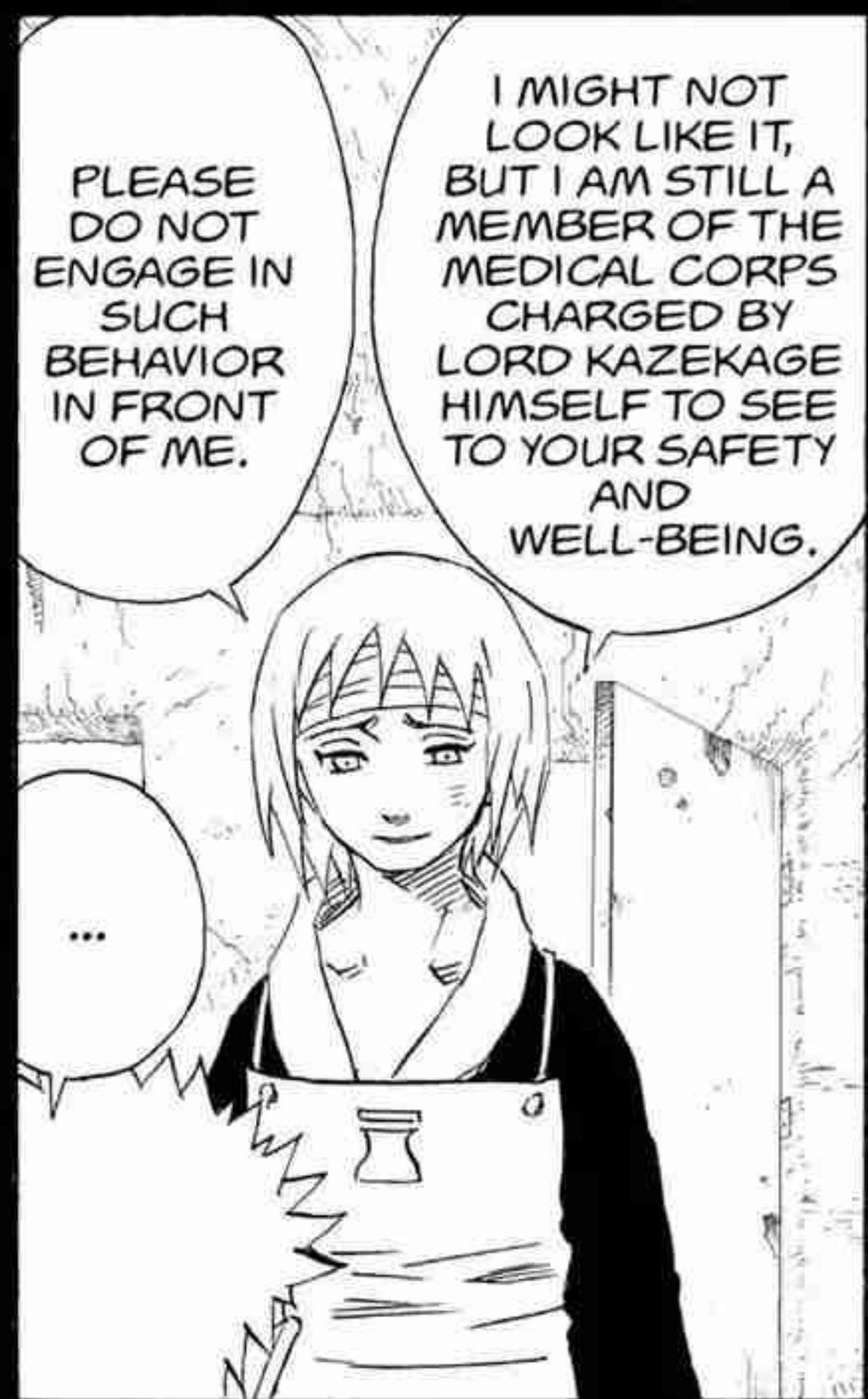


SLITHER SLITHER...
SLOOSH
THE SAND PROTECTS ME...

...IT'S STILL USELESS ...


!
LORD GAARA...

...EVEN IF THE SAND PROTECTS YOU AS WELL...


PLEASE DO NOT ENGAGE IN SUCH BEHAVIOR IN FRONT OF ME.
I MIGHT NOT LOOK LIKE IT, BUT I AM STILL A MEMBER OF THE MEDICAL CORPS CHARGED BY LORD KAZEKAGE HIMSELF TO SEE TO YOUR SAFETY AND WELL-BEING.
...

YOUR WOUND...
...YASHAMARU...
DOES IT HURT?
I'M SORRY.

YASHAMARU...?
HMM?

BUT IT'S ONLY A SMALL SCRATCH. IT'LL HEAL IN NO TIME.
OH, THIS?
WELL, JUST A BIT...

TO HURT?
WHAT DOES IT MEAN...

THE WORLD OF KISHIMOTO MASASHI
MY PERSONAL HISTORY, PART 21

IN MY SECOND YEAR OF COLLEGE, AFTER I GOT TO KNOW MY TWO MANGA-DRAWING UPPERCLASSMEN, I SELECTED THE TRADE PUBLICATIONS I WANTED TO WORK FOR, AND STARTED TO DRAW MANGA AIMED TOWARD THOSE MAGAZINES' CONTESTS.

EVEN AMONG THE NEWCOMER MANGA AWARDS, THERE'S A LOT OF VARIATION.

EACH MAGAZINE HAS A DIFFERENT STYLE OR THEME, AND IF YOU DON'T MATCH YOUR WORK TO THOSE THEMES, IT'S MORE DIFFICULT TO GET SELECTED.

FOR EXAMPLE, IF YOU DREW AND SUBMITTED A HOT-BLOODED BATTLE ACTION MANGA WITH ONLY STRAPPING MALE CHARACTERS TO A SHOJO MANGA MAGAZINE CONTEST, THE MOMENT THEY OPENED YOUR ENVELOPE AND SAW YOUR COVER ILLUSTRATION, THEY WOULD PUT IT BACK IN THE ENVELOPE, SEAL IT, AND EITHER THROW IT IN THE TRASH OR SEND IT BACK TO YOU. WELL, THAT MIGHT BE A RATHER EXTREME EXAMPLE, BUT UNLESS YOU REALLY TRY TO UNDERSTAND A MAGAZINE'S FLAVOR, YOU'LL JUST BE LABELED A "POOR MISGUIDED FOOL."

WHERE IT ESPECIALLY GETS TRICKY IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SEINEN AND SHONEN MAGAZINES. BECAUSE THEY ARE SOMEWHAT SIMILAR IN TASTES, IT'S VERY EASY TO GET THEM CONFUSED. I WAS A CASE IN POINT MYSELF. I OFTEN DREW HALF-AND-HALF MANGA THAT COULD HAVE QUALIFIED AS EITHER SEINEN OR SHONEN. THE REASON IS THAT THE MANGA THAT HAD INFLUENCED ME WERE THE SHONEN TITLE *DRAGONBALL* AND THE SEINEN TITLE *AKIRA*. THUS, I ACTUALLY WENT THROUGH A PERIOD WHERE I DEBATED WHICH FLOW I SHOULD GO WITH, AND EVEN IF I CHOSE ONE, ELEMENTS OF THE OTHER WOULD CREEP IN. BESIDES, BEYOND ANY SUPERFICIAL SIMILARITIES, THE ART DESIGN, DIALOGUE, TENSION, THEME, AND REPRESENTATION ARE QUITE DIFFERENT, SO (IN MY CASE!) I HAD TO DECIDE WHICH TYPE I WAS GOING TO DRAW AND GO WITH JUST ONE.

THUS, I MADE MY CHOICE, WHICH AT THAT TIME WAS TO AIM FOR SEINEN MAGAZINES. AT THE TIME, THE *AKIRA* INFLUENCE WAS GREATER IN MY ART STYLE AND NAME [OUTLINE/STORYBOARDS], AND I THOUGHT THAT MY PERSONALITY WAS MORE SUITED TOWARD SEINEN MAGAZINES AS WELL. HOWEVER, WHEN I TRIED TO DRAW SEINEN-AIMED MANGA, I JUST COULDN'T GET RID OF THE FEELING THAT SOMETHING WASN'T RIGHT, AND IT DIDN'T GO WELL... I REALIZED I HAD TO CONTEMPLATE WHAT I WANTED TO DRAW A LOT DEEPER, AND THE MORE I ANALYZED IT, THE "THING" THAT HAD PERMEATED THE DEPTHS OF MY HEART KEPT RISING TO THE SURFACE. IT WAS THAT INVINCIBLE MASTERPIECE OF SHONEN MANGA... *DRAGONBALL*... (AND YOU KNOW FROM *NARUTO* WHAT'S HAPPENED SINCE ☺).

Number 130:

...TO HURT?

...WHAT DOES IT MEAN...

Love...zz

...

...

...

...I... I'VE NEVER EVEN BEEN INJURED, SO...

I WAS WONDERING WHAT IT FELT LIKE...

IT'S NO FUN, DEFINITELY...

I CAN'T REALLY DESCRIBE IT...

IT'S KINDA PAINFUL... KINDA UNBEARABLE...

WELL... I'M NOT SURE HOW TO DESCRIBE IT...

IN SHORT, I GUESS YOU COULD IMAGINE... BEING HIT OR CUT AND YOU CAN'T HOLD IT IN OR BE YOURSELF ANY LONGER...

!
YASHA-MARU...

YASHAMARU, DO YOU...
...THEN...

...

...HATE ME?

...

BUT EVEN DESPITE ALL THAT...
HUMANS LIVE THEIR LIVES HURTING OTHERS AND BEING HURT IN RETURN.
...PEOPLE STILL LOVE MORE THAN THEY HATE...

SO... COULD I BE INJURED TOO?
...
JUST LIKE EVERYONE ELSE...

MAYBE I AM STARTING TO UNDERSTAND... WHAT IT MEANS TO HURT, NOW.
...THANKS, YASHAMARU...
...IS THAT SO...?

...

...!
IT... ALWAYS HURTS.

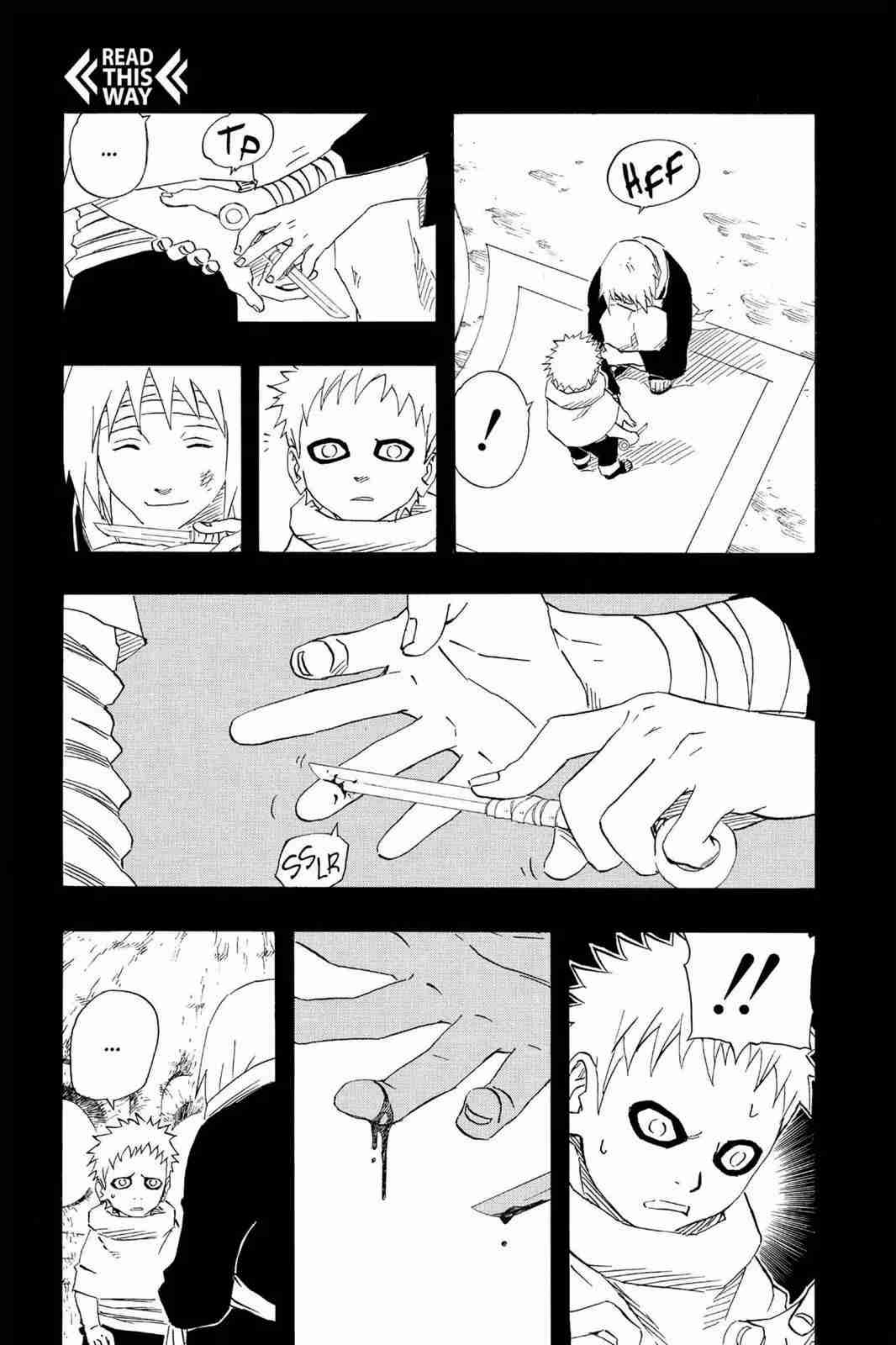
?!

IT DOESN'T BLEED...

BUT IT HURTS RIGHT HERE.

SKRCH

...


READ THIS WAY
...
TP
HFF
!
...
SSLR
...
!!

...!

BUT AS TIME PASSES, THE PAIN WILL FADE ON ITS OWN...

AND IF ONE USES MEDICINE, IT WILL HEAL EVEN FASTER.

A WOUND OF THE BODY CERTAINLY BLEEDS...

AND CAN APPEAR PAINFUL.

...BUT WHAT ARE TROUBLESOME ARE THE WOUNDS OF THE HEART...

TAP

THEY ARE EXTREMELY SLOW TO HEAL.

...

UNLIKE WOUNDS OF THE BODY, THERE ARE NO MEDICINES THAT CAN HELP THEM GET BETTER...

AND SOMETIMES, THEY NEVER EVER HEAL.

WOUNDS OF THE HEART ARE A BIT DIFFERENT.

...WOUNDS OF THE HEART?

...

...?
...

...THAT CAN EASE THE WOUNDS OF THE HEART.
THERE IS JUST ONE THING...

...
...WHAT IS IT?

...FOR YOU CAN ONLY RECEIVE IT FROM ANOTHER.
UNFORTU-NATELY, IT'S A BOTHERSOME CURE...

LOVE.

YES.
LOVE?
...B...BUT, SO HOW CAN ONE RECEIVE IT?
...
...THE FEELING THAT MAKES YOU WANT TO STRIVE FOR AND PROTECT THOSE AROUND YOU WHO ARE PRECIOUS TO YOU.
LOVE IS...
YOU HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED SOME, LORD GAARA.
I HAVE?
...JUST LIKE ELDER SISTER...

...

I THINK THAT YOUR MOTHER'S WILL HAS SEEPED INTO THAT SAND.

WHEN THE SAND TRIES TO PROTECT YOU, I BELIEVE IT'S AN EXPRESSION OF MATERNAL LOVE.

I TRULY BELIEVE ELDER SISTER LOVED YOU VERY DEEPLY, LORD GAARA.

SHUKAKU OF THE SAND IS SUPPOSED TO BE A WRAITH USED FOR OFFENSIVE ASSAULTS.

...EVEN UNTO HER DEATH...

...MUST HAVE WANTED TO PROTECT YOU...

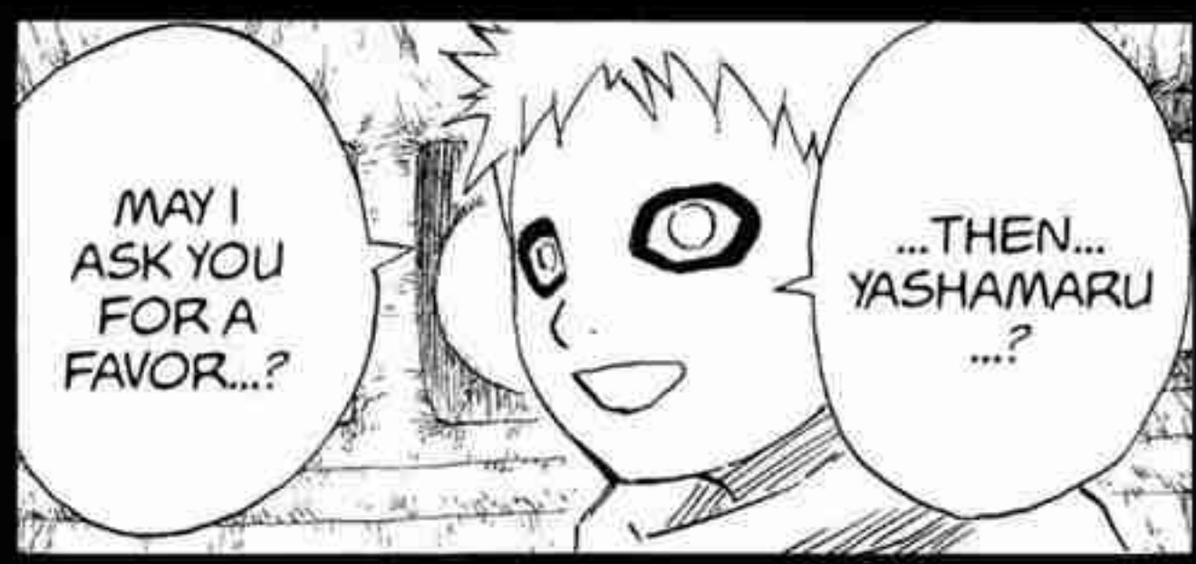
ELDER SISTER...

...

FOR STOPPING ME.

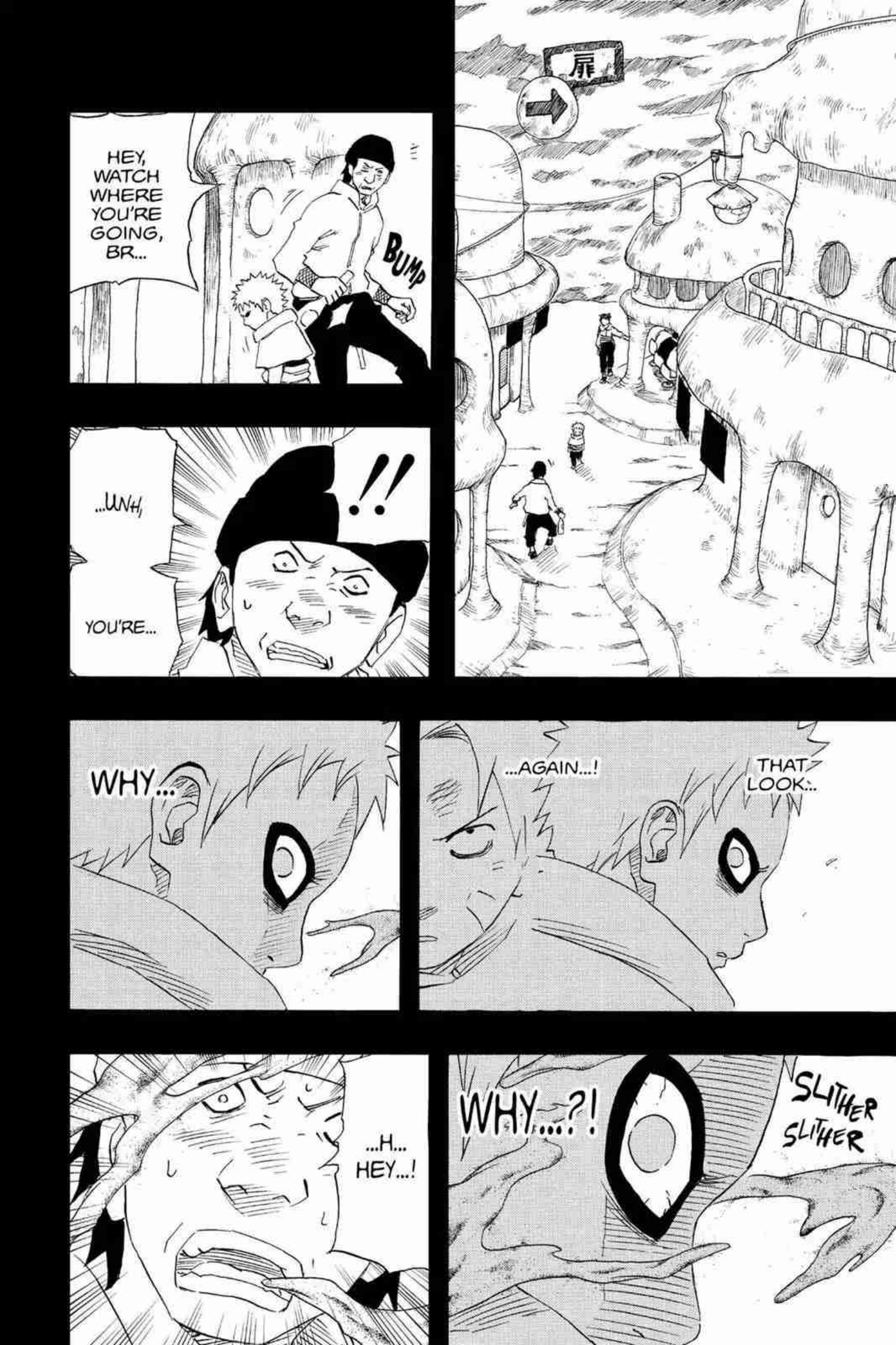
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
YASHAMARU, THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP...

YOU ARE VERY PRECIOUS TO ME, LORD GAARA!
OWW...
OF COURSE.


MAY I ASK YOU FOR A FAVOR...?
...THEN... YASHAMARU ...?

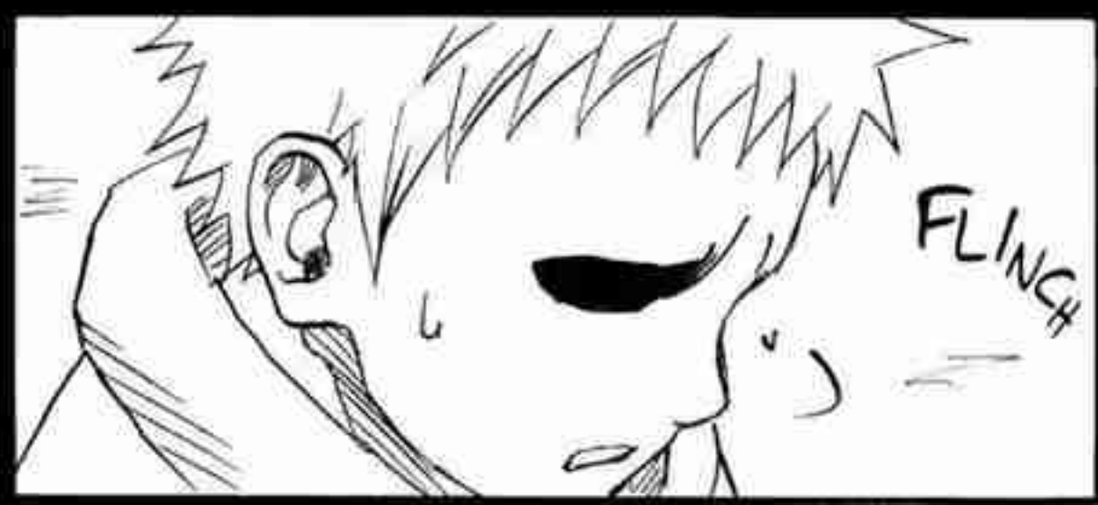
I WANT SOME WOUND OINTMENT.
WHAT IS IT?

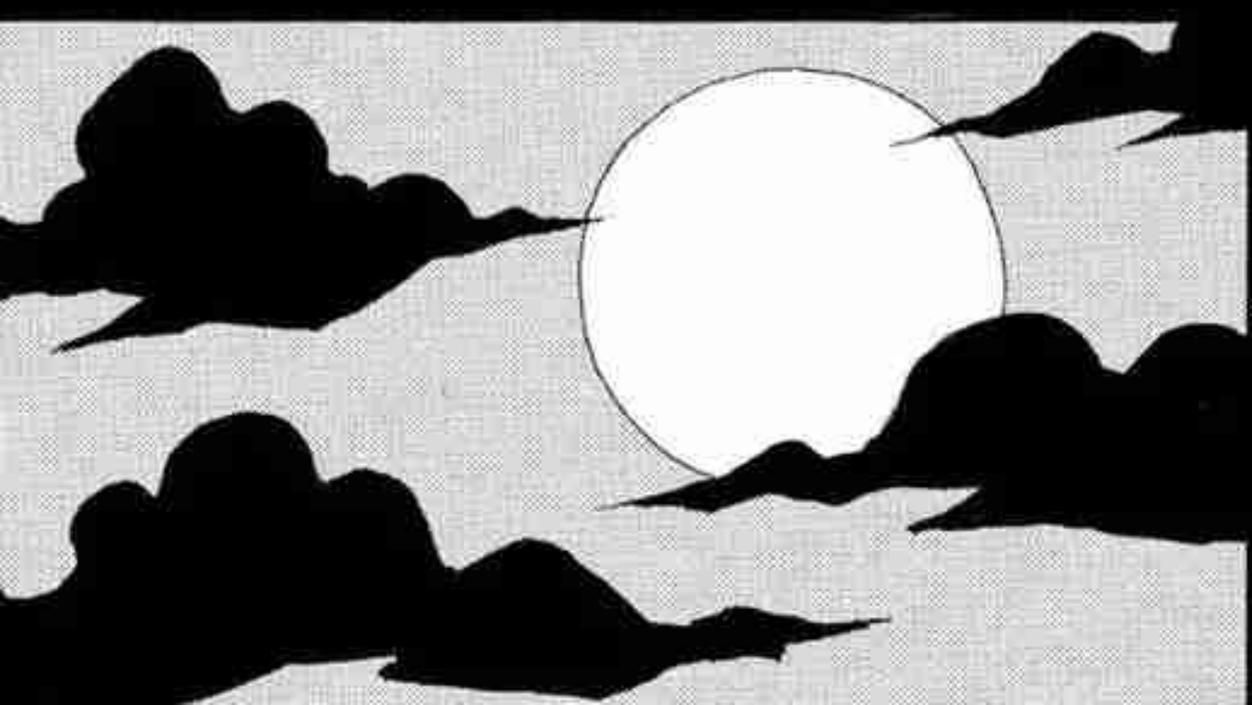
READ THIS WAY
!
CLATTER
KNOCK KNOCK
...GO HOME, MONSTER...
HERE'S SOME WOUND OINTMENT, PLEASE TAKE...
I'M SORRY ABOUT EARLIER... IT MUST HAVE HURT...
...


扉
HEY, WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING, BR...
BUMP
...UNH,
!!
YOU'RE...
WHY...
...AGAIN...!
THAT LOOK...
...H... HEY...!
WHY...?!
SLITHER SLITHER

SMASH!

WAAAAAH!!



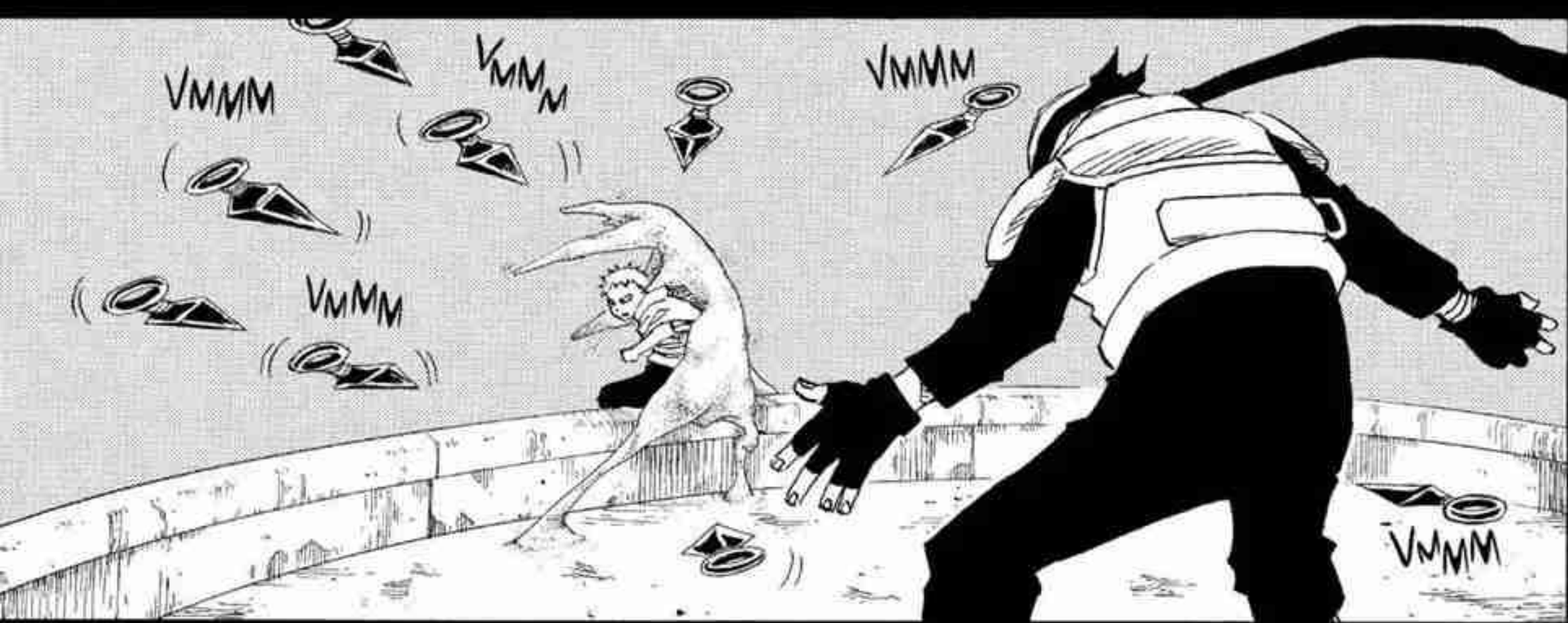


IT STILL DOESN'T WORK...

I GUESS...

!!

CHOOM!
THOCK
THOCK
THOCK
HUH?
THUNK

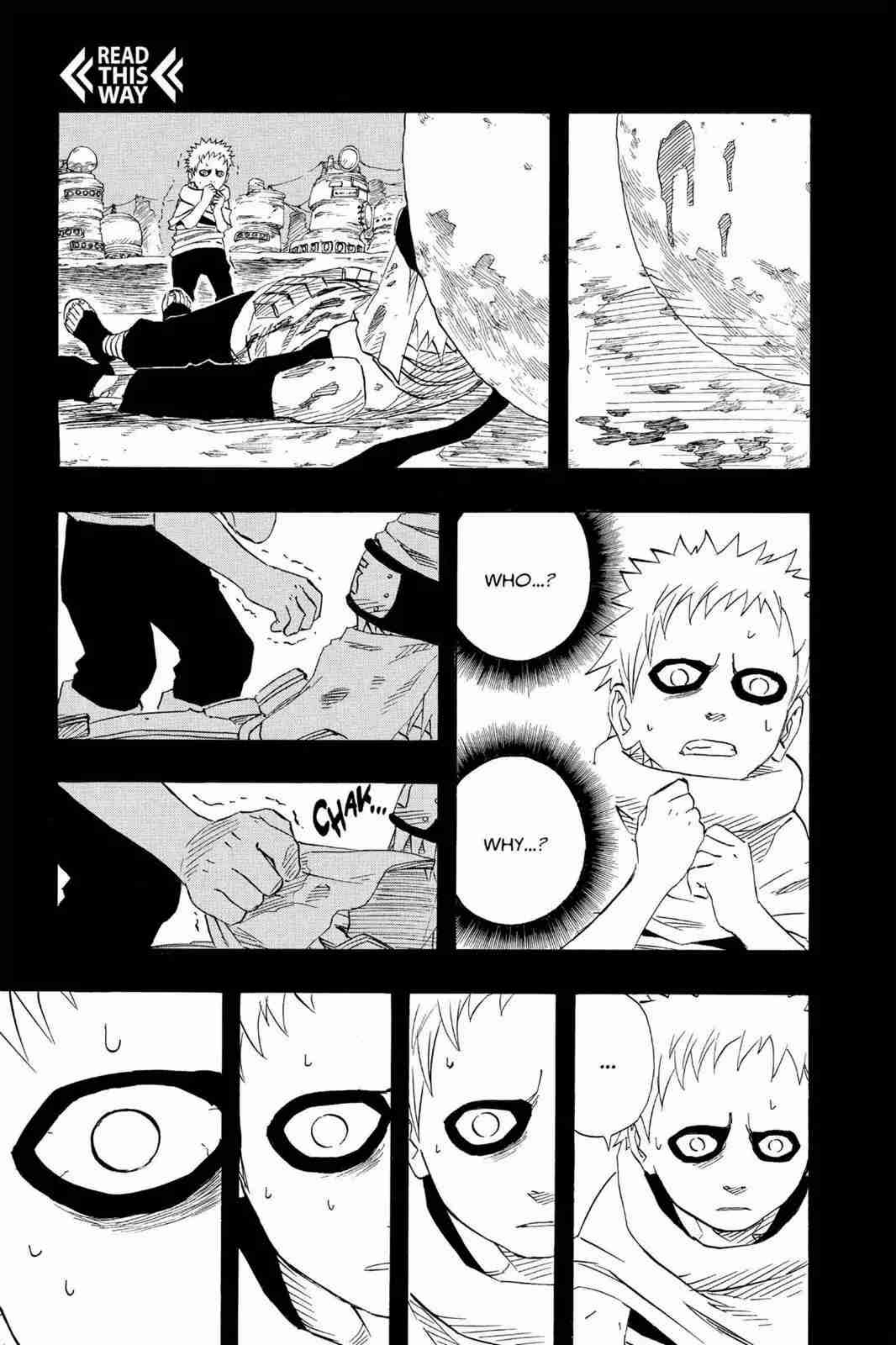

VMMM
VMMM
VMMM
VMMM
VMMM

ALWAYS ME!!

WHY ME...?!!

!!
...WHAT?!
...WHY?!

THOOM
FWSH
SLITHER SLITHER
!!
THOCK
THOCK
THONK
THONK
SPLUTTER
NGH


READ THIS WAY
WHO...?
WHY...?
CHAK...
...

YOU TRULY ARE IMPRES-SIVE...

LORD GAARA...

PANG

SKR EN CH

...YASHAMARU...

READ THIS WAY
AAAARGH!!

THE WORLD OF KISHIMOTO MASASHI
MY PERSONAL HISTORY, PART 22

SO AFTER ALL THAT, HAVING DECIDED I WOULD AIM FOR SHONEN MAGAZINES, I IMMEDIATELY CHOSE WITHOUT ANY HESITATION THE SPECIFIC SHONEN MAGAZINE WHOSE CONTEST I WOULD ENTER. OF COURSE, I CHOSE *WEEKLY SHONEN JUMP*, THE MAGAZINE IN WHICH *DRAGON BALL* APPEARED.

HOWEVER, I SUDDENLY RAN RIGHT INTO A WALL...

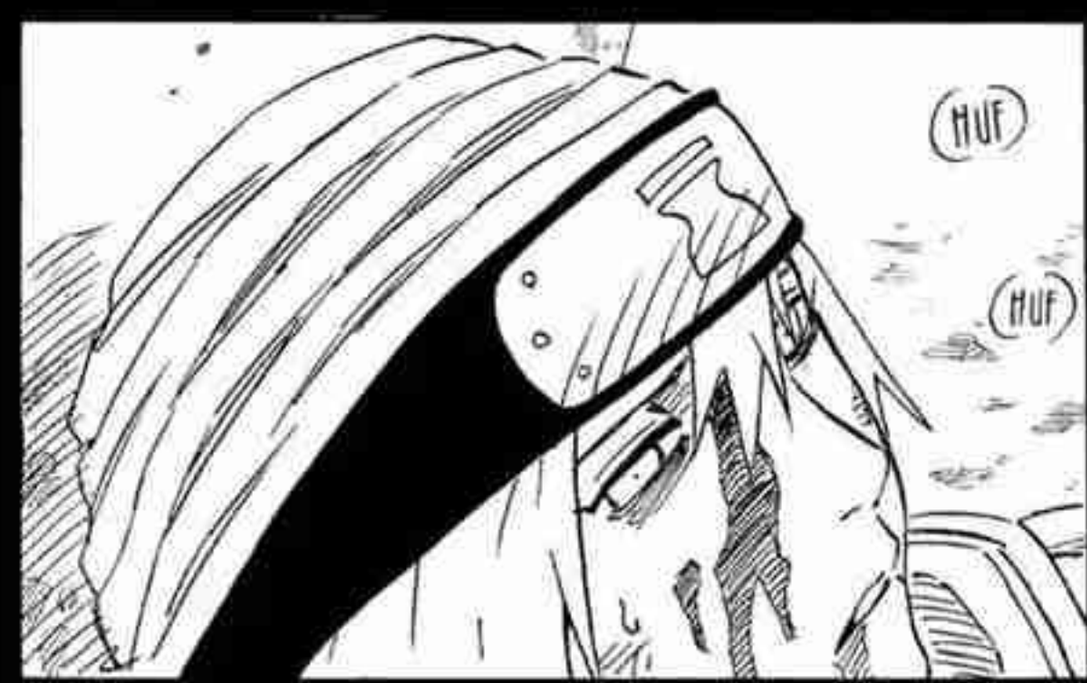
BECAUSE I HAD INITIALLY BEEN AIMING FOR SEINEN MAGAZINES, MY ART STYLE WAS NO LONGER SHONEN. WELL, TO A CERTAIN EXTENT, I COULD STILL DRAW SHONEN-LIKE STYLE, BUT I JUST COULDN'T GET CRAZY ABOUT MY CHARACTER DESIGNS. I HAD BEEN GROPING ABOUT FOR AN ORIGINAL ART STYLE THIS WHOLE TIME, BUT THERE WAS ONE OTHER THING THAT WASN'T GOING WELL AT ALL FOR ME. I COULD DRAW PLENTY OF ROUGH SKETCHES OR STORYBOARDS, BUT THEN I COULDN'T FIGURE OUT HOW TO EXPRESS THEM WELL WITH LINES; IN SHORT, HOW ONE DISTORTS AND EXPRESSES LINES REFLECTS THAT INDIVIDUAL'S SENSE.

AT THE TIME, I HAD BEEN SEARCHING HIGH AND LOW WITHOUT SUCCESS FOR NEW DRAWINGS THAT HAD GOOD SENSE IN ADDITION TO BEING GREAT ART, BUT THERE HAD BEEN NOTHING SINCE *AKIRA* THAT HAD CAUGHT MY EYE.

AND THEN ONE DAY, I SAW AN ANIME THAT TOTALLY BLEW ME AWAY... BECAUSE IT CONTAINED ALL OF THE ELEMENTS I HAD BEEN SEEKING. THAT ANIME WAS *HASHIRE MEROSU* [RUN, MELOS].

Number 131: The Name Gaara...!! zz

AAAA RGH!!



CHATTER CHATTER

CHATTER CHATTER

WHY...?!

WH... WHY...

WHY...?

WHY...?!

WHY YOU... YASHAMARU...

WHY...?

YOU ARE SOMEONE VERY PRECIOUS TO ME, LORD GAARA!

LOVE IS... THE FEELING THAT MAKES YOU WANT TO STRIVE FOR AND PROTECT THOSE AROUND YOU WHO ARE PRECIOUS TO YOU.

IT WAS AN ORDER.

HUF

(HUF)

...

(HUF)

YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE WHO... EVER LOVED ME...

YOU...

YOU ALWAYS...

...?!

I WAS COMMIS-SIONED TO KILL YOU.

!

!!

LORD KAZEKAGE...
BY YOUR FATHER...

GAH...!!
GACK

CLAP
ULP!

FATHER DID...?

HUF
HUF

...

...WHY WOULD...

WHY WOULD FATHER...?

(HUF)

WHY...

...YOU WILL EVENTUALLY BECOME TOO DANGEROUS FOR THE VILLAGE, LORD GAARA...

HOWEVER, IF YOU CANNOT LEARN TO CONTROL THE SAND THAT IS THE POWER OF THE SHUKAKU WRAITH...

SO IT WAS DECIDED...

(HUF)

(HUF)

...HAD BEEN WATCHED OVER AND GUARDED UNTIL NOW AS AN EXPERIMENTAL SUBJECT.

YOU, LORD GAARA... IN WHOM THE SHUKAKU WAS IMPLANTED WHILE YOU WERE STILL IN THE WOMB...

YOU HAD TO CARRY OUT FATHER'S ORDER ...

...THEN YOU DIDN'T HAVE A CHOICE, YASHAMARU...

THEN...

...

...

...THAT'S NOT ENTIRELY TRUE...

NO...

I PROBABLY COULD HAVE REFUSED IT IF I HAD THOUGHT TO...

... HOWEVER ...

I CERTAINLY DID... RECEIVE AN ORDER FROM LORD KAZEKAGE.

!!

...!

DEEP DOWN INSIDE... I THINK I...

BUT LORD GAARA ...

...

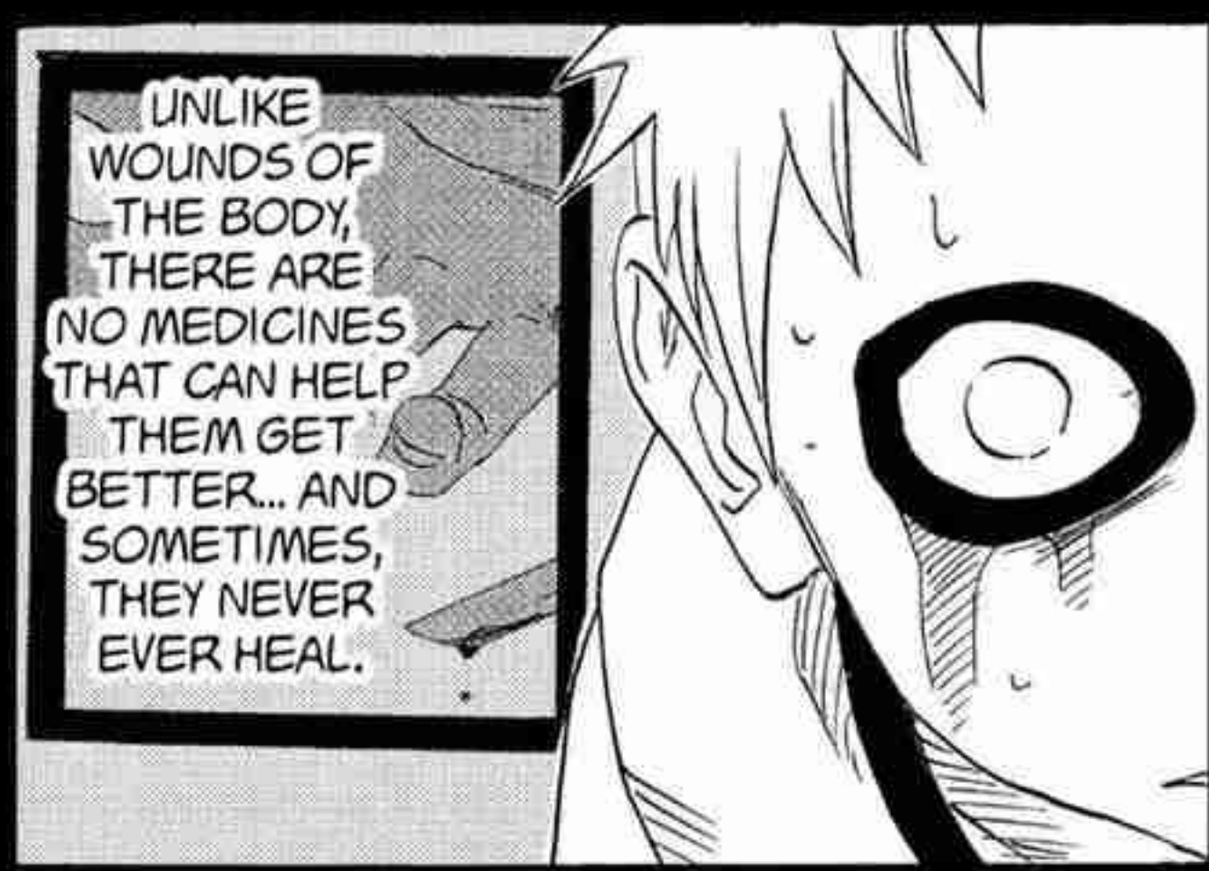
...FOR STEALING THE LIFE OF MY MOST BELOVED OLDER SISTER WITH YOUR BIRTH...

...RESENTED YOU...

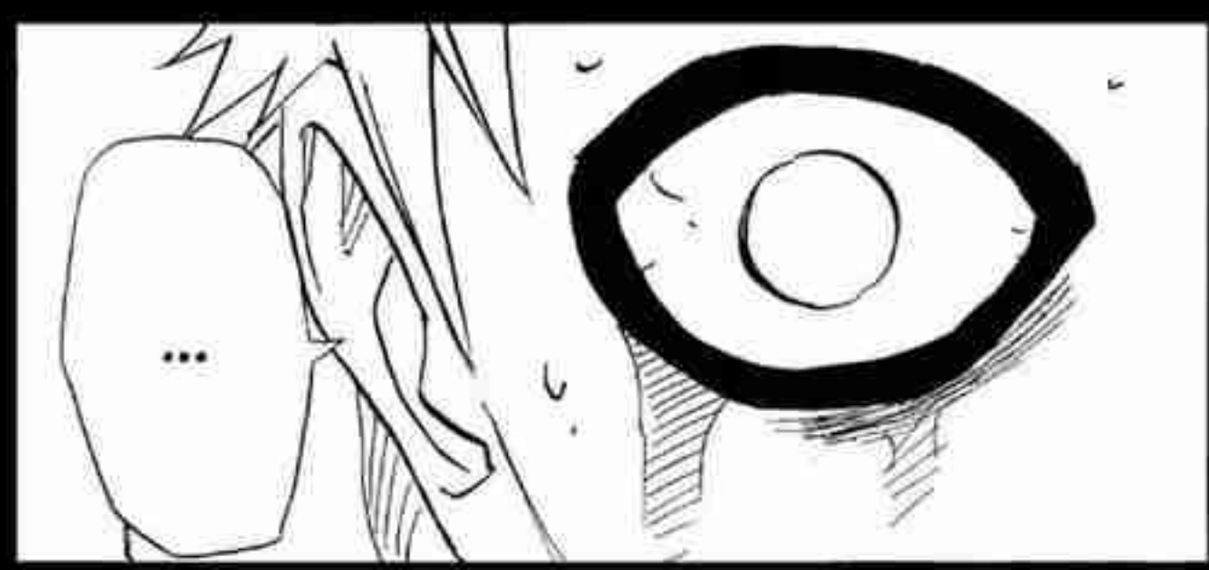
...

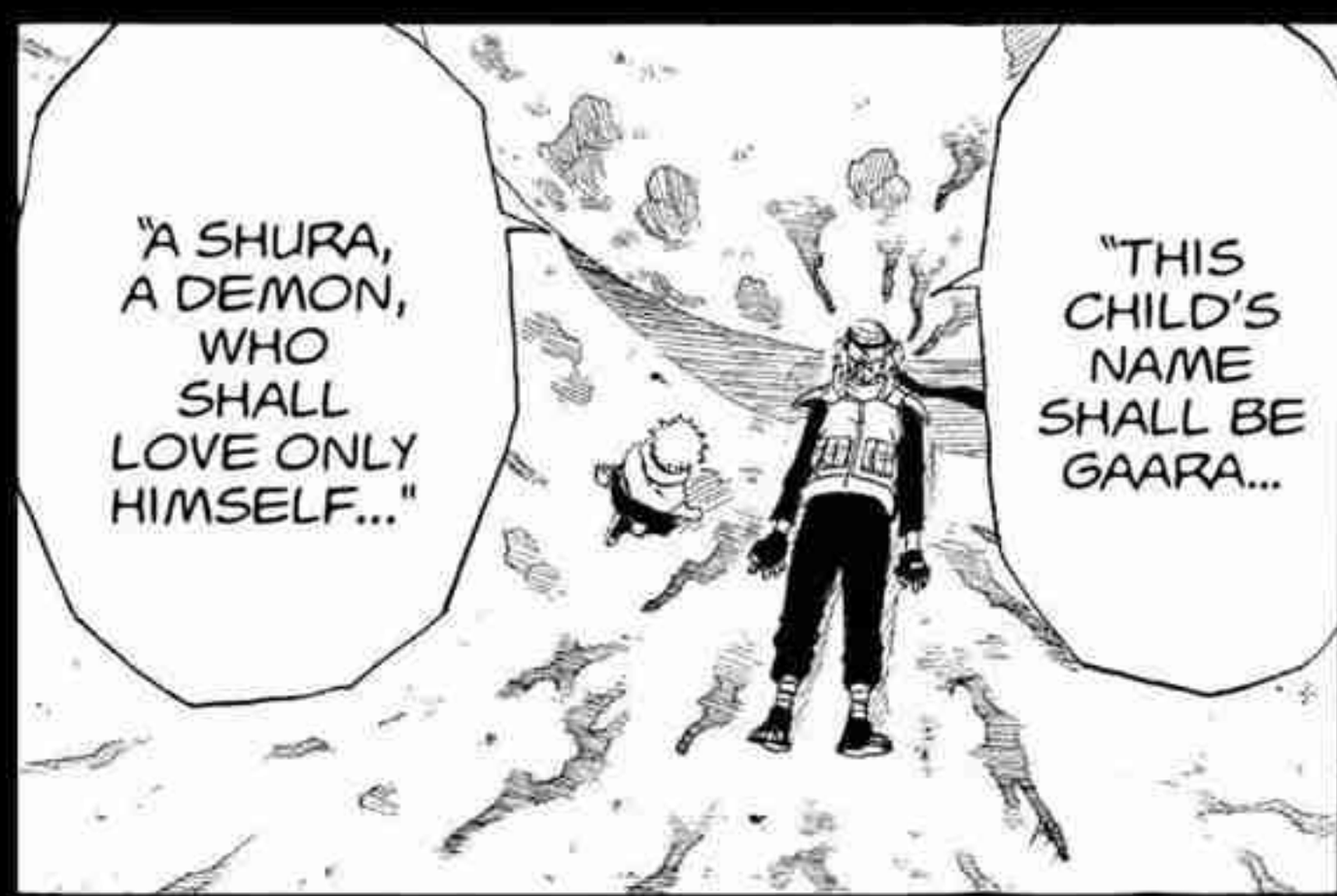
SHE WAS SACRIFICED FOR THE VILLAGE AND DIED CURSING THIS PLACE...
MY OLDER SISTER DID NOT WANT YOU...

...BUT IN THE END, I COULDN'T ...
I TRIED DESPERATELY TO LOVE YOU... EVEN IF ONLY AS A MEMENTO OF MY OLDER SISTER...


UNLIKE WOUNDS OF THE BODY, THERE ARE NO MEDICINES THAT CAN HELP THEM GET BETTER... AND SOMETIMES, THEY NEVER EVER HEAL.

AND SINCE THAT DAY...
I THINK I HAVE CARRIED A WOUND OF THE HEART THAT WILL NEVER HEAL...


...

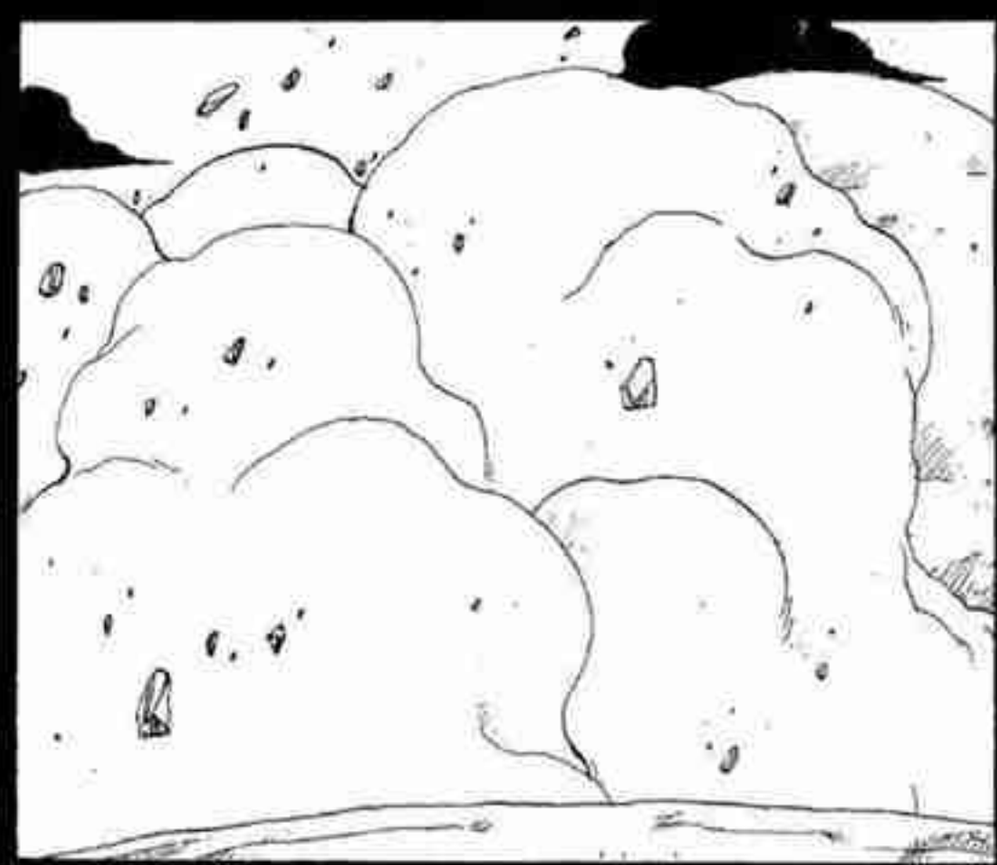

"A SHURA, A DEMON, WHO SHALL LOVE ONLY HIMSELF..."
"THIS CHILD'S NAME SHALL BE GAARA...

ELDER SISTER...
...GAVE YOU YOUR NAME, YOU KNOW.

"...SO BY DOING THAT, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO KEEP EXISTING..." THOSE WERE THE THINGS SHE WISHED FOR YOU.
"LOVE ONLY YOURSELF... AND FIGHT ONLY FOR YOURSELF...

...A REMINDER OF HER HATRED, OF HOW SHE WENT TO HER DEATH LOATHING AND CURSING THE WORLD... REMIND THEM... AND SHOW THEM ALL...!
SHE GAVE YOU THAT NAME SO THAT YOU WOULD SURVIVE AND BE A REMINDER TO THE WORLD ...
HOWEVER... ELDER SISTER DID NOT NAME YOU THUS...
...BECAUSE SHE LOVED OR WORRIED ABOUT YOU...
NO, YOU WERE NEVER LOVED...!
PLEASE DIE WITH ME...
AND NOW...
YANK
...

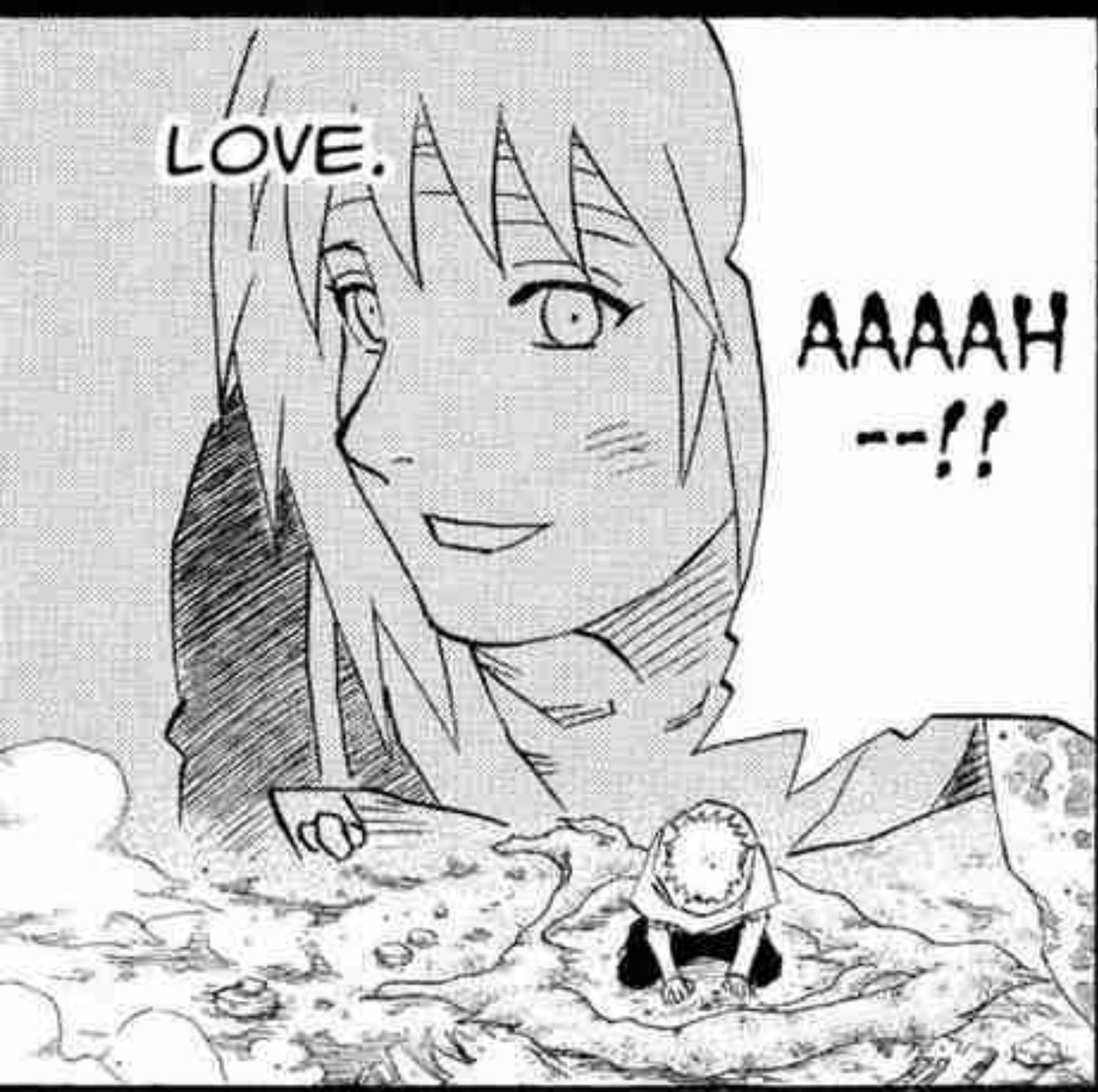
ドガ
ドガ



I TRULY BELIEVE ELDER SISTER LOVED YOU VERY DEEPLY, LORD GAARA.

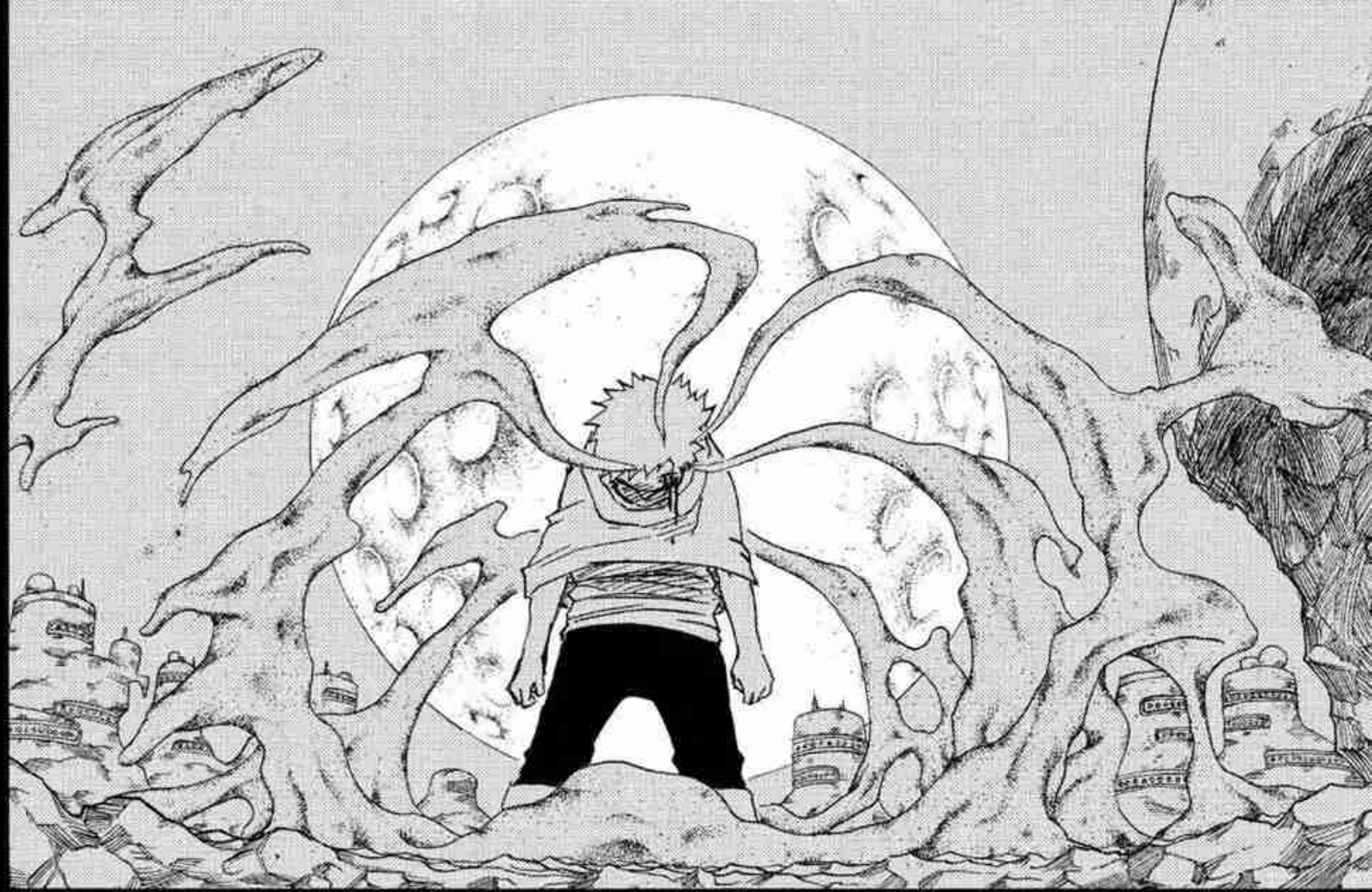
LOVE?
...

CLUNK


LOVE.
AAAAH --!!

I THINK THAT YOUR MOTHER'S WILL HAS SEEPED INTO THAT SAND.
WHEN THE SAND TRIES TO PROTECT YOU, I BELIEVE IT'S AN EXPRESSION OF MATERNAL LOVE.
...UNH... ...AAH...

GRRROAR!!!



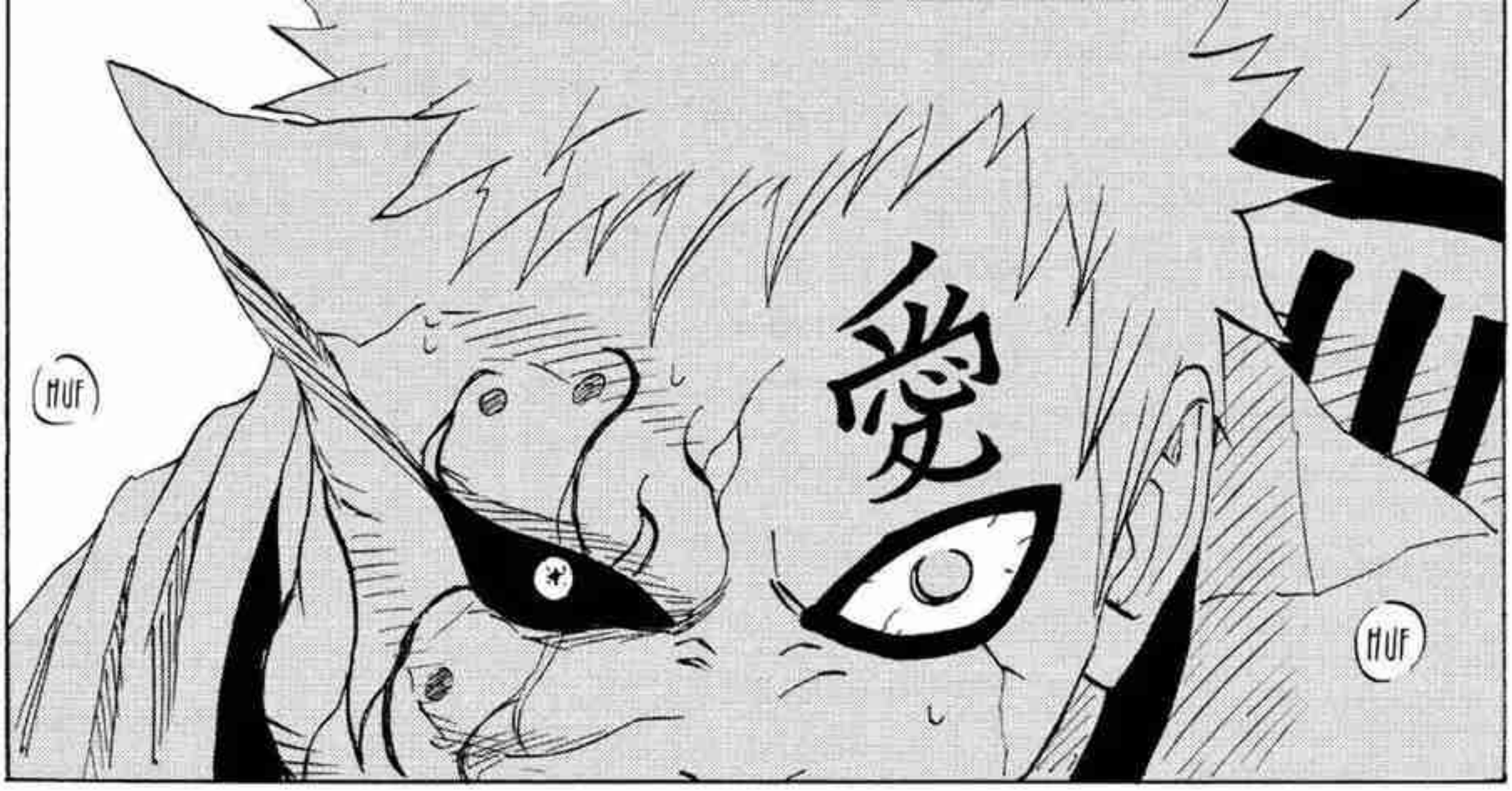
ME...
SO THAT'S GAARA.

"AND FIGHT ONLY FOR YOUR-SELF...!"
"LOVE ONLY YOUR-SELF...

I'M ALL ALONE...
HEH HEH... THAT'S RIGHT...

I WON'T TRUST ANYONE ELSE ANY-MORE... WON'T LOVE THEM... I'M ALONE...
I AM ALONE.

I FINALLY UNDER-STAND...

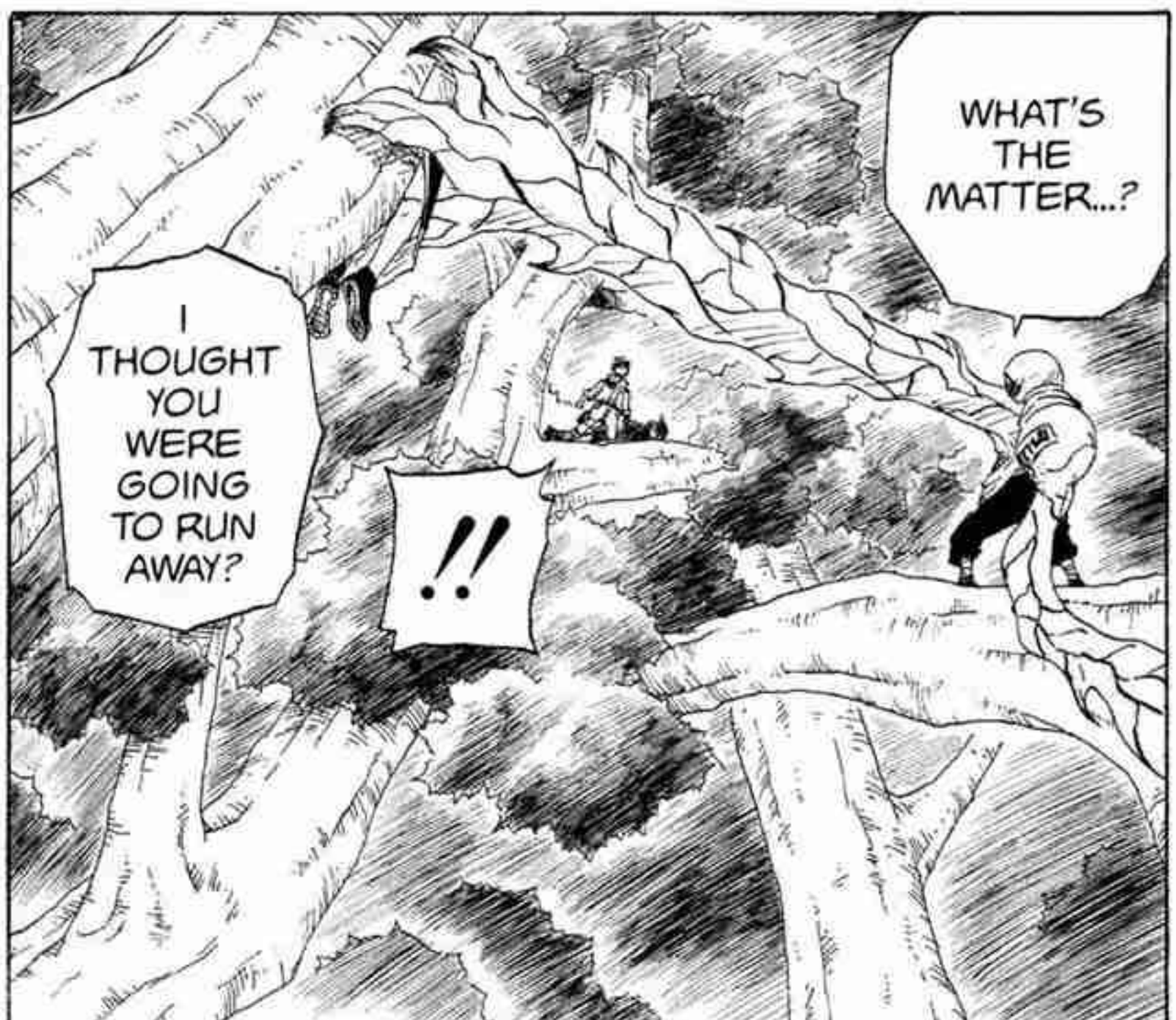

愛
HUF
HUF

GULP

...

愛
...OH... IT'S THAT LOOK...!!

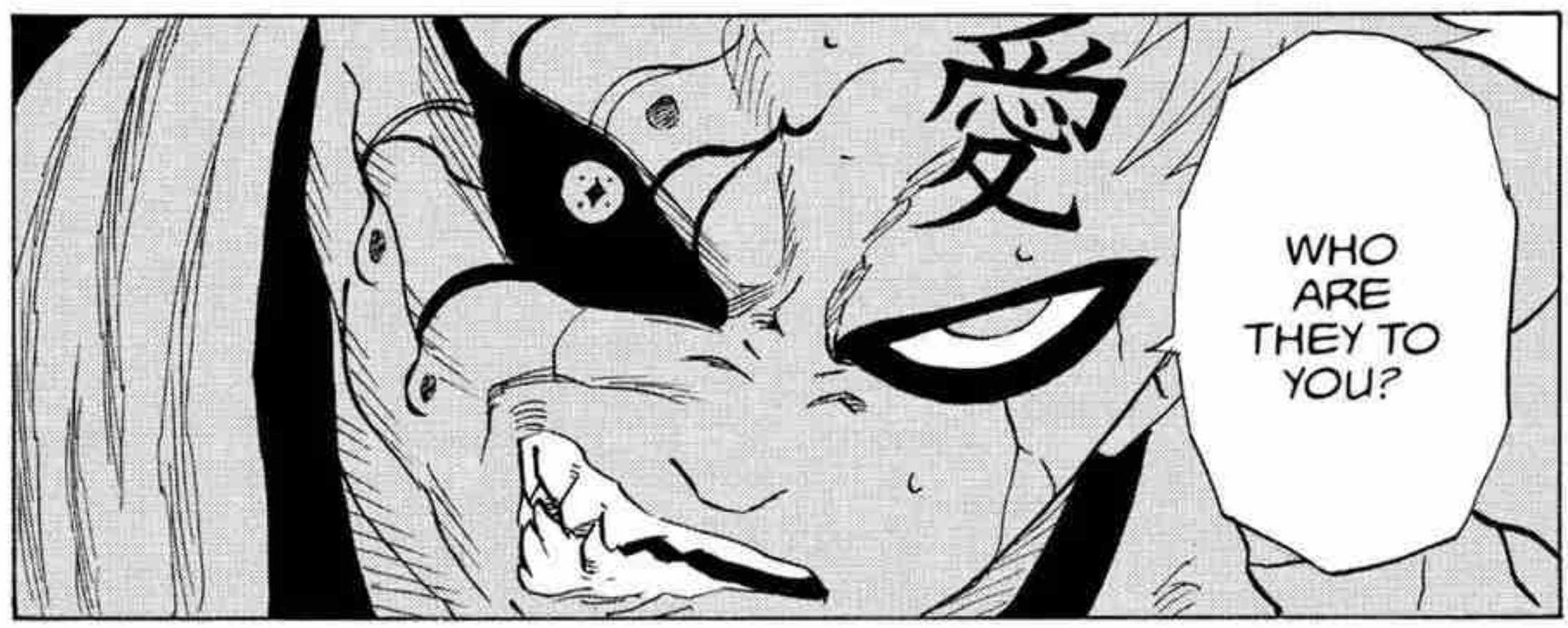
...SASUKE...

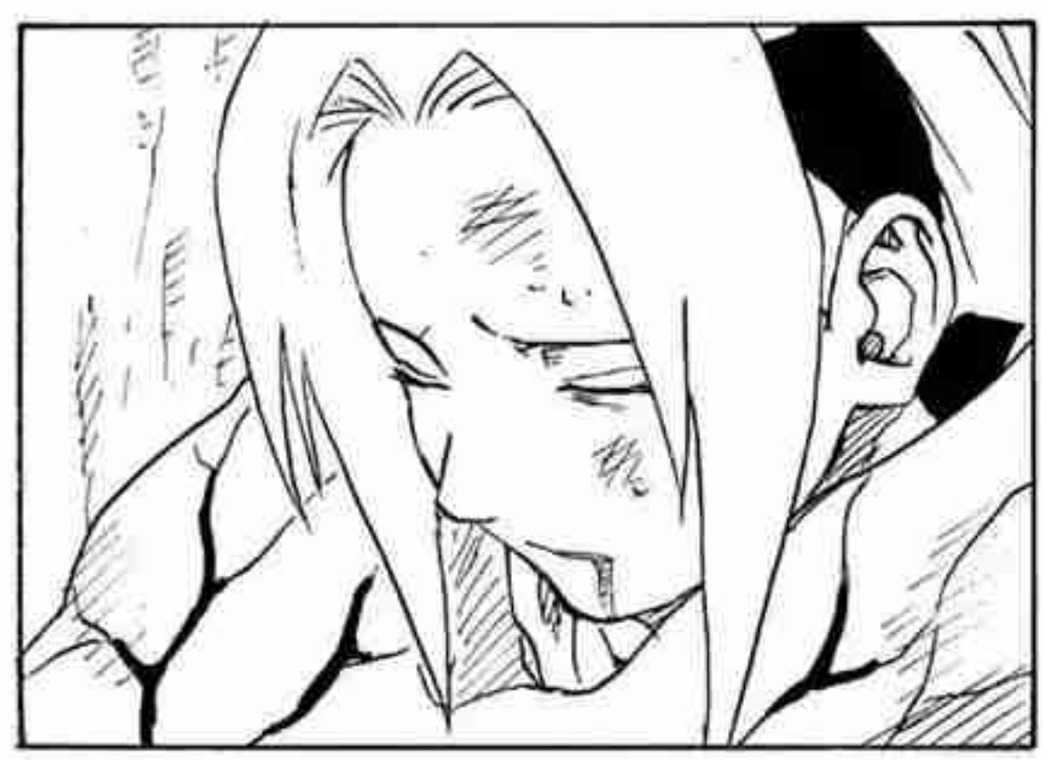

WHAT'S THE MATTER...?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO RUN AWAY?
!!

...NARUTO...

!!

UGH...

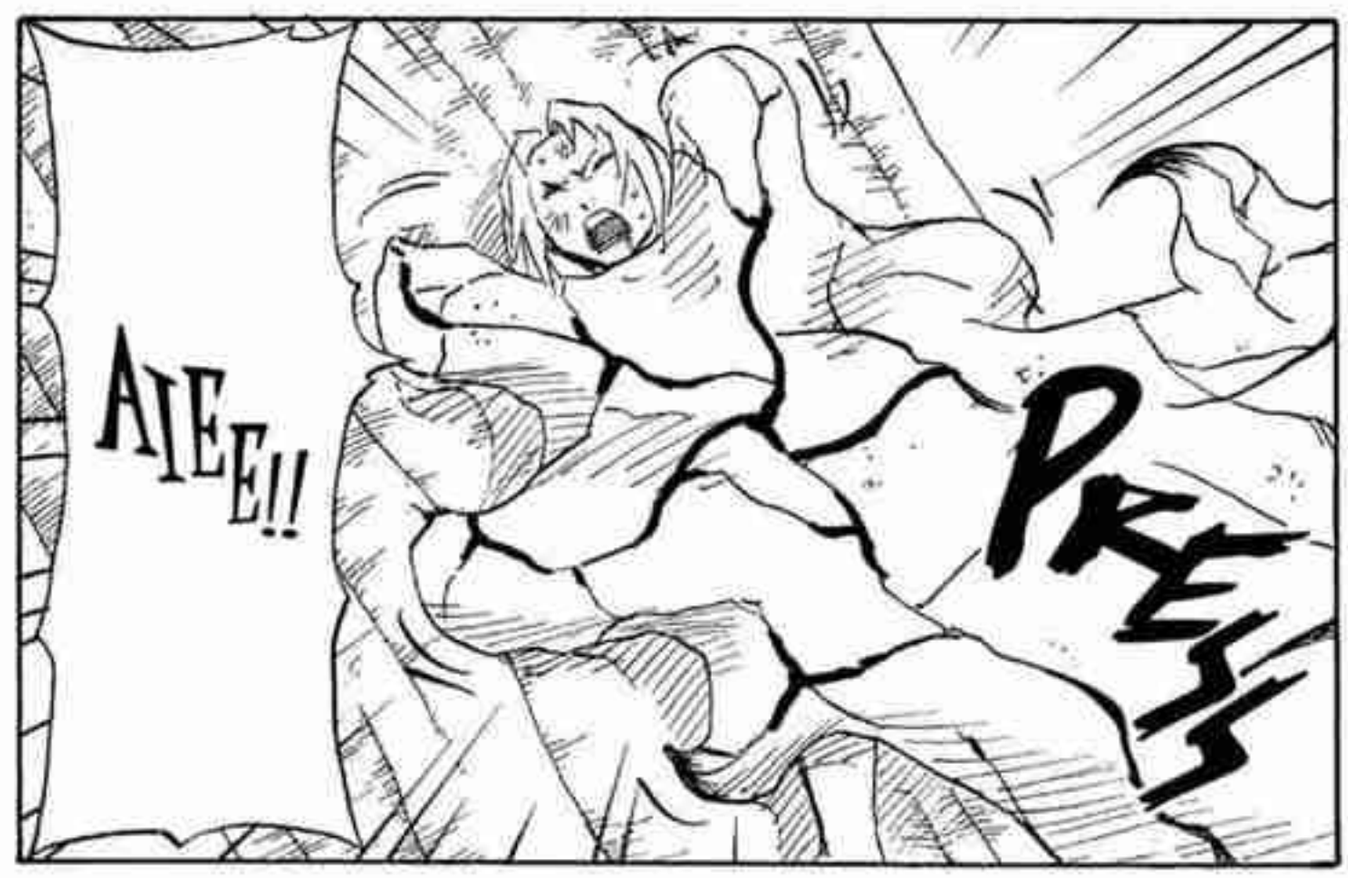

愛
WHO ARE THEY TO YOU?

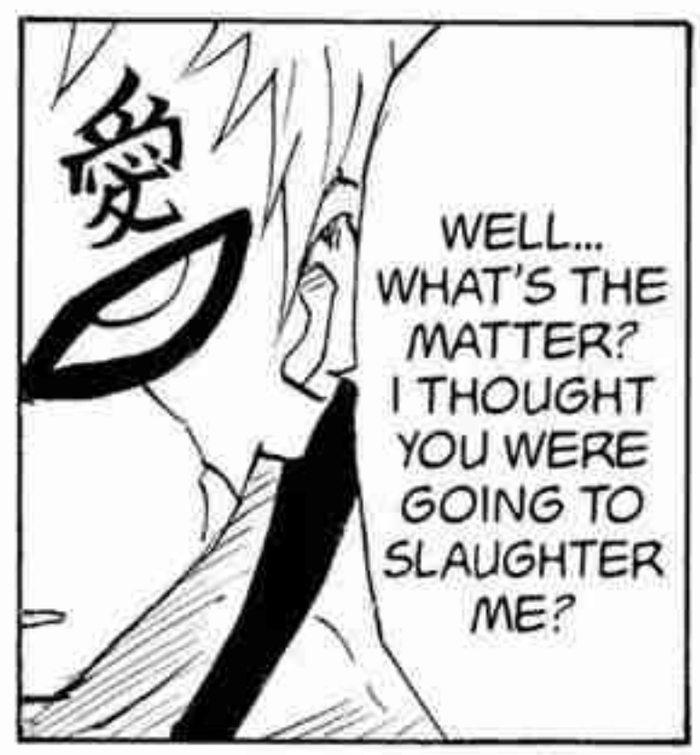


I'LL SLAUGHTER YOU!!

TH...THEY'RE MY FRIENDS!

IF YOU TRY TO TOUCH THEM AGAIN...





!
DARN!
...DARN!
...!!

...DID SOMETHING... HAPPEN... BETWEEN THE TWO OF THEM?
...HE'S NOT HIS USUAL SELF...
...

THAT'S RIGHT... IN THIS SITUATION...
HMM~~!
!
EVEN THOUGH IT USES UP A LOT OF CHAKRA...

BUT HOW?
I'VE GOT TO RESCUE SAKURA!!
IN ANY CASE... IN ANY CASE!
!

SLAP

MY ONLY CHOICE IS TO SUMMON THAT TOAD!!
FWUP

KUCHIYOSE! SUMMONING!!

BOOF

IF YOU WANT MY HELP, GIVE ME SOME MUNCHIES!

OR ELSE I WON'T PLAY WITH YOU!

WHAT THE?! YOU'RE JUST A BRAT!!

READ
THIS
WAY

THIS ISN'T THE TIME OR PLACE TO BE PLAYING AROUND, MINI-WART!
ARGH...
GRRR
FWP

WHAT?! DON'T YOU DARE MOCK AMPHIBIANS!!! EH!!!
Y'KNOW, I REALLY!! I REALLY REALLY HATE YOU FROGS!!!

愛
FRIEND...?! WHAT A LAUGH...

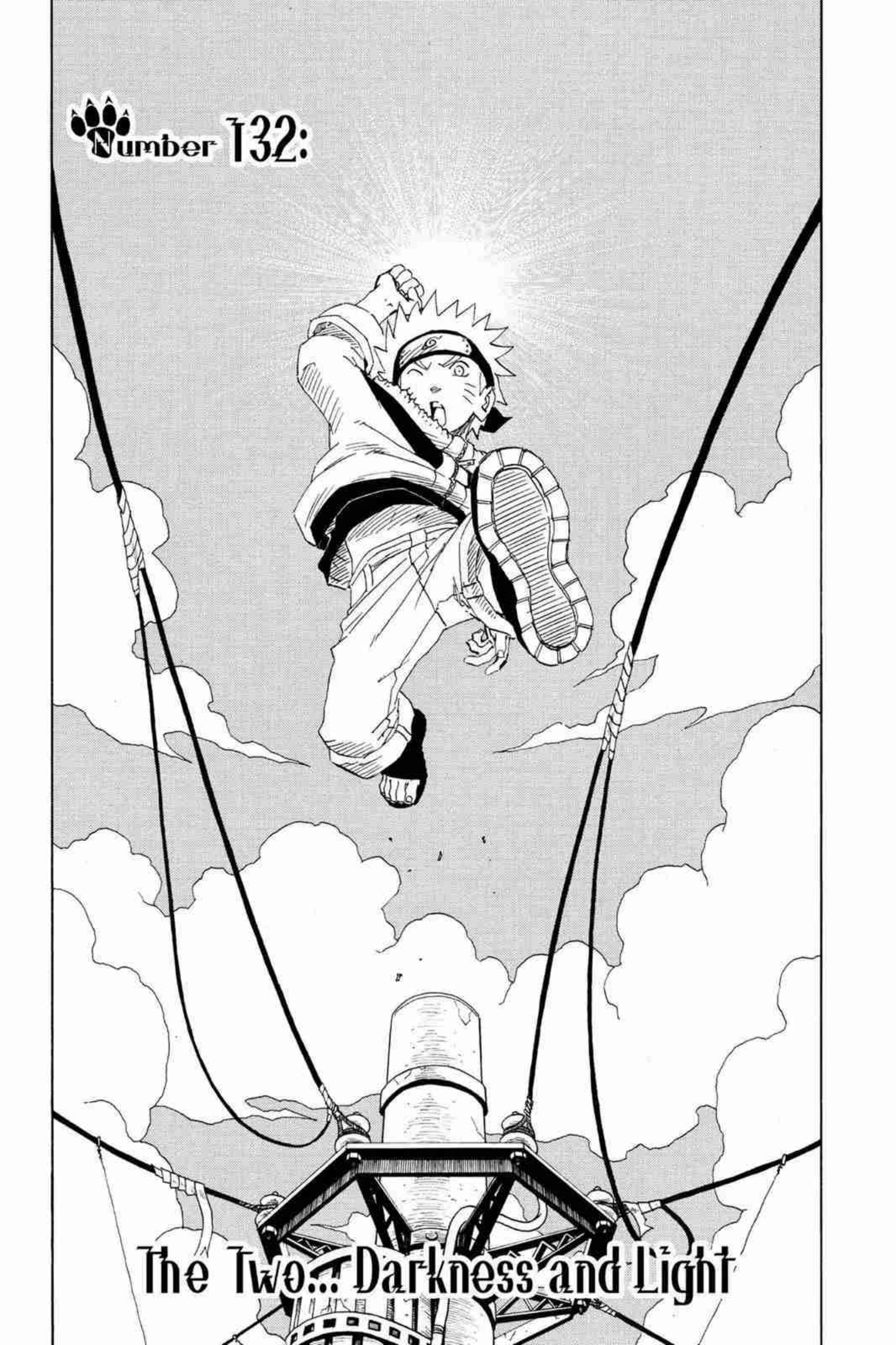
WHAT WAS ALL THAT TRAINING FOR? AT THIS RATE, THERE ISN'T...
DARN! WHY IS IT...

LOOOOM
...ONLY FOR MYSELF!!
愛
FIGHT...

THE WORLD OF KISHIMOTO MASASHI
MY PERSONAL HISTORY, PART 22 (CONTINUED)

HASHIRE MEROSU [RUN, MELOS] REALLY AMAZED ME! THE MUSCLES AND BONE STRUCTURE WERE REPRESENTED WITH NEW LINE TECHNIQUES, AND THE DESIGNS FELT REALLY FRESH. NOT TO MENTION REALLY COOL. I IMMEDIATELY BECAME INTERESTED IN THE CHARACTER DESIGNER AND ANIMATION DIRECTOR OKIURA HIROYUKI, AND AS I RESEARCHED HIS FILMOGRAPHY AT THE LOCAL VIDEO RENTAL STORE, I STARTED NOTICING THAT SOME OF THE ANIMATORS' NAMES APPEARED AGAIN AND AGAIN IN MANY OTHER FILMS. "OH! THIS GUY, HE WORKED ON THIS FILM TOO. OH! THIS GUY TOO!" ...ALONG THE WAY, I GOT INTO ALL SORTS OF ANIME, AND STARTED MEMORIZING THE NAMES OF VARIOUS ANIMATION DIRECTORS AND ANIMATORS. AT THAT TIME, WHEN MANGA WERE MADE INTO ANIMATION, THE ANIME OFTEN HAD BETTER ART, SO I HAD STARTED FEELING THAT ANIMATORS WERE BETTER ARTISTS. AND THAT IS WHEN MY ENCOUNTER WITH A CERTAIN TITLE AND A CERTAIN ANIMATOR IMMENSELY INFLUENCED ME.

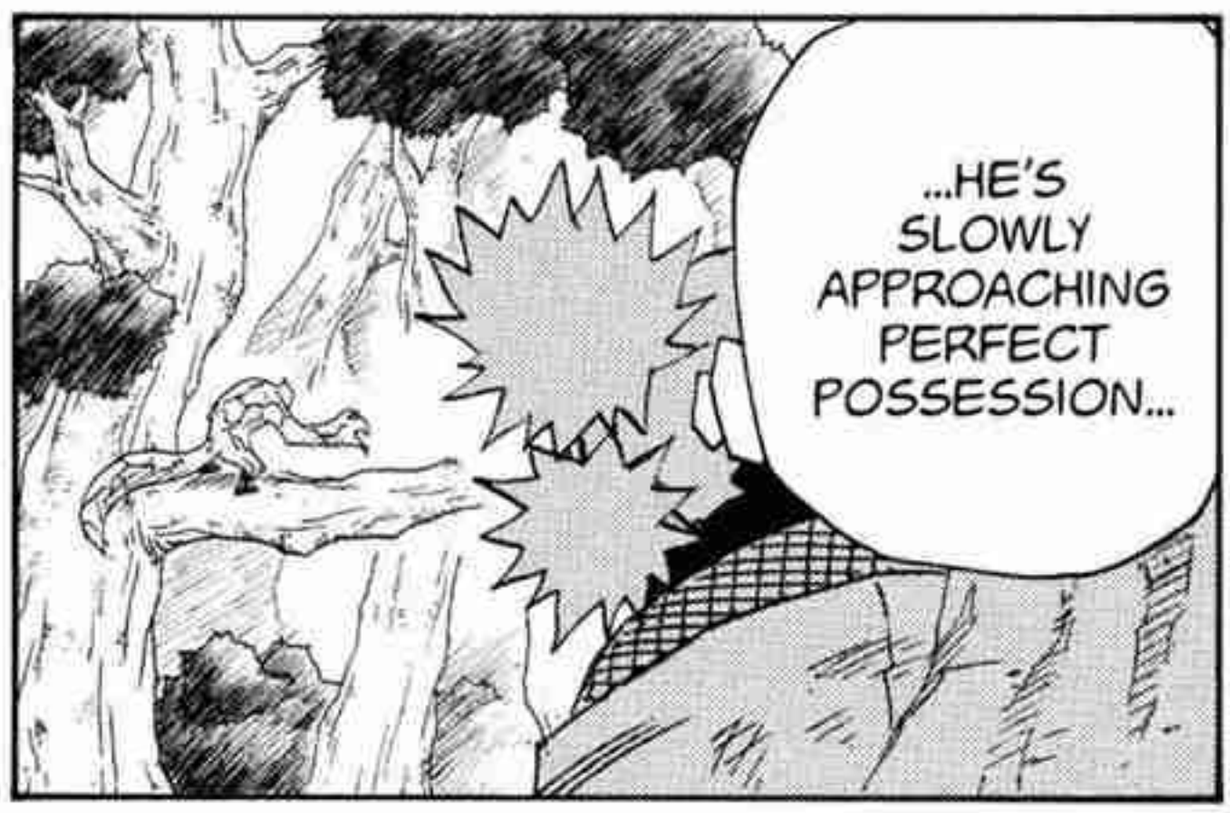
THAT TITLE WAS JUMP'S FAMOUS *NINKŪ*, A NINJA MANGA JUST LIKE MINE. AND THE ANIMATOR WHO INFLUENCED ME WAS NISHIO TETSUYA, THE CHARACTER DESIGNER AND ANIMATION DIRECTOR FOR THE ANIMATED VERSION.


Number 132:
The Two... Darkness and Light

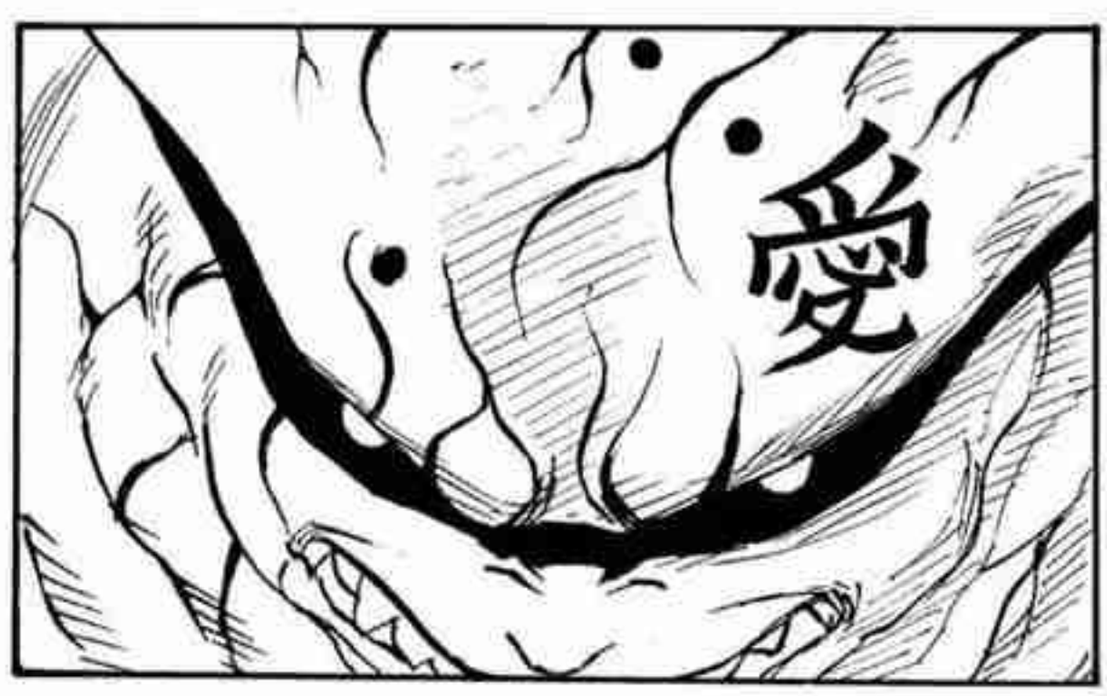
RIPPLE
RIPPLE
RRRR
ROAR!!

BUT AT THIS RATE... EVEN I...
...HE HASN'T INITIATED THE TANUKI NEIRI NO JUTSU – THE PLAY POSSUM TECHNIQUE – YET, BUT...

SAKURA...
UGH...!


...HE'S SLOWLY APPROACHING PERFECT POSSESSION...

...THAT LOOK...
...


愛

SSHF
CCREEAK
SSHF

VOOSH

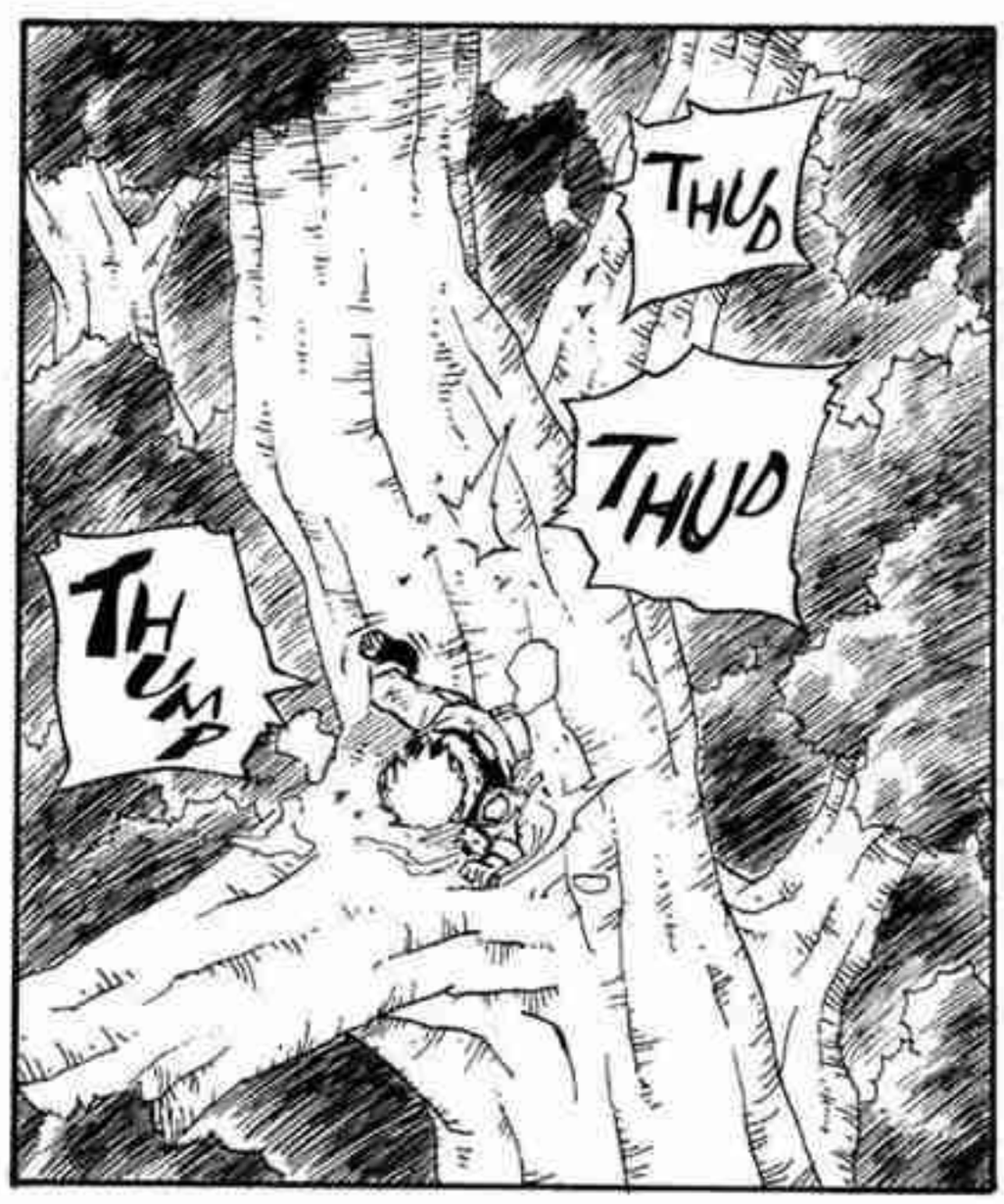
SAND SHURIKEN!!

SLAM
UGH!!

!

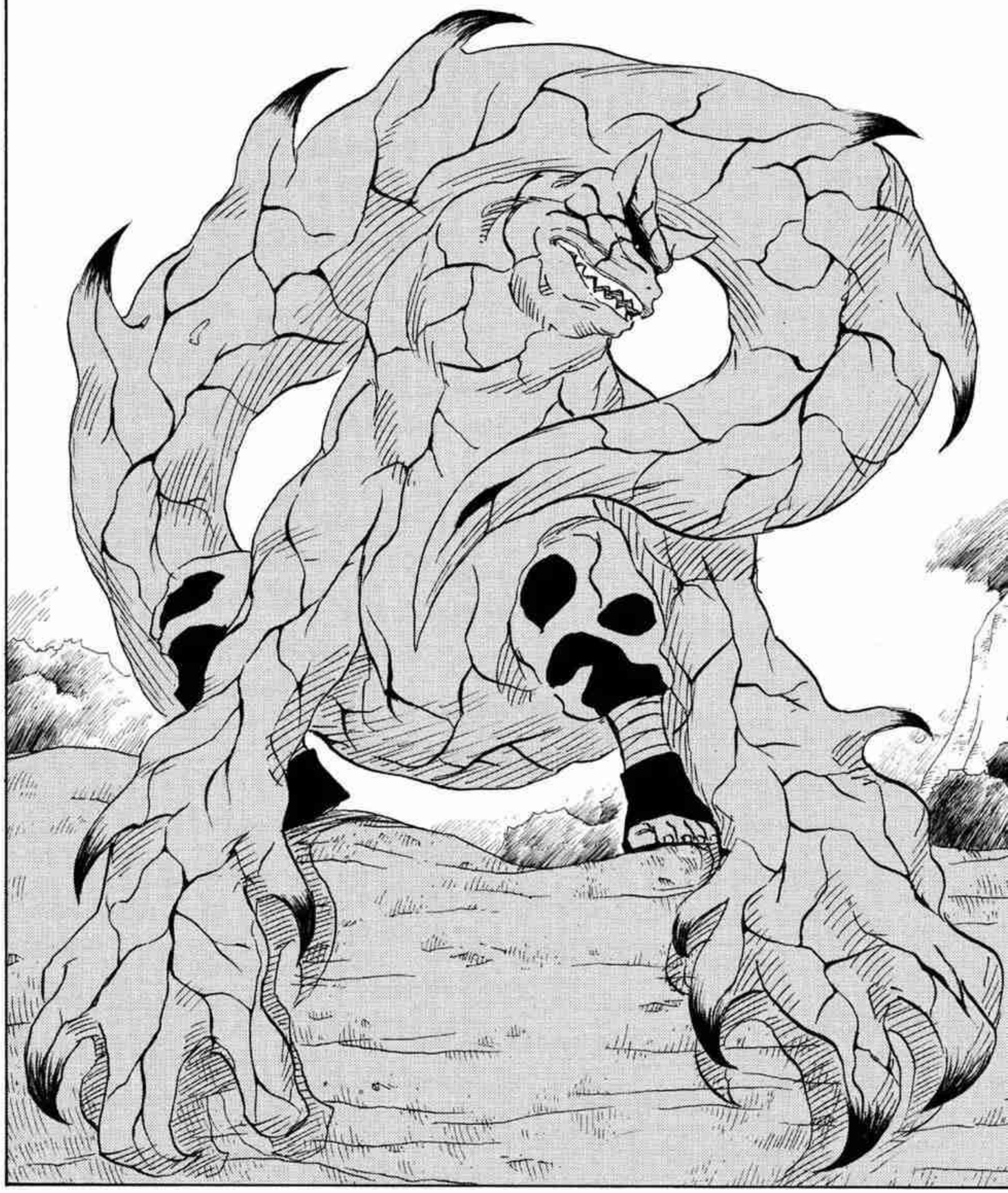
UGH...

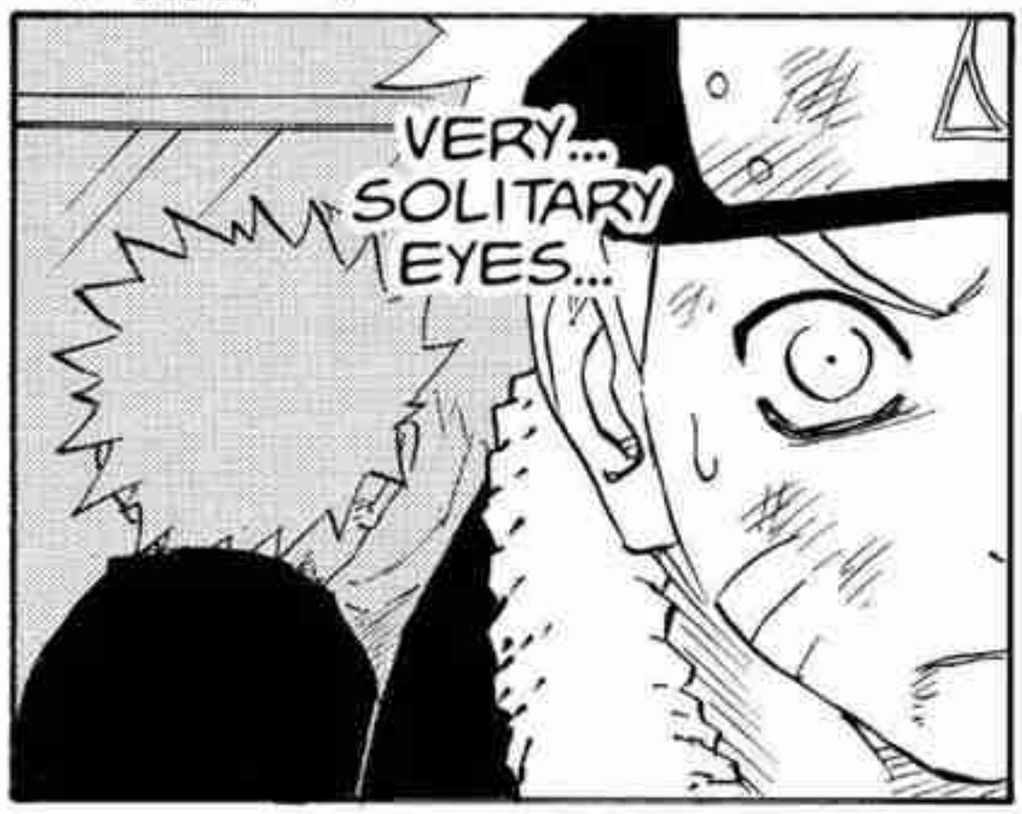
...UGH, SHUT UP!
YOU'RE WEAK!
DARN!! ...WHY DID THIS MINI-TOAD SHOW UP...?!


THUD
THUD
THUMP

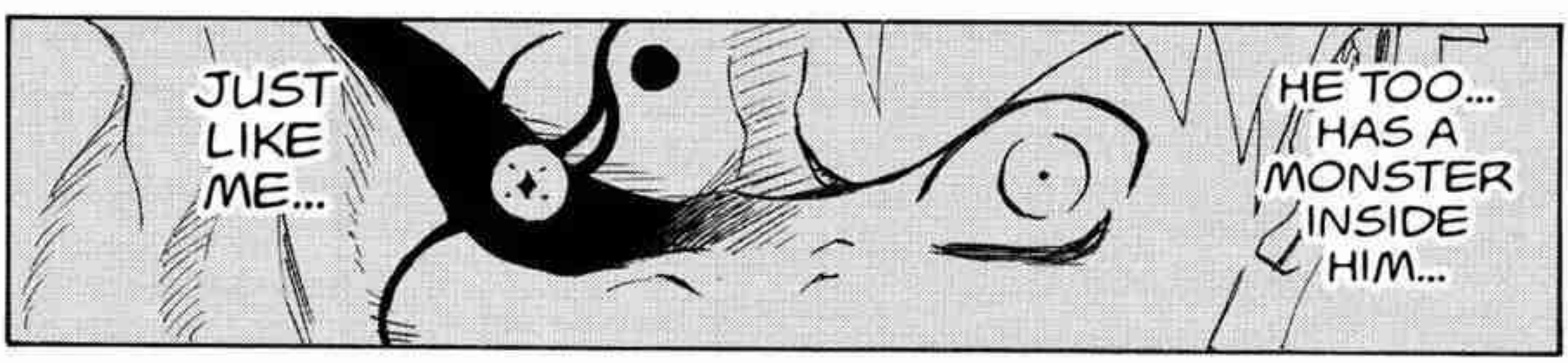
!

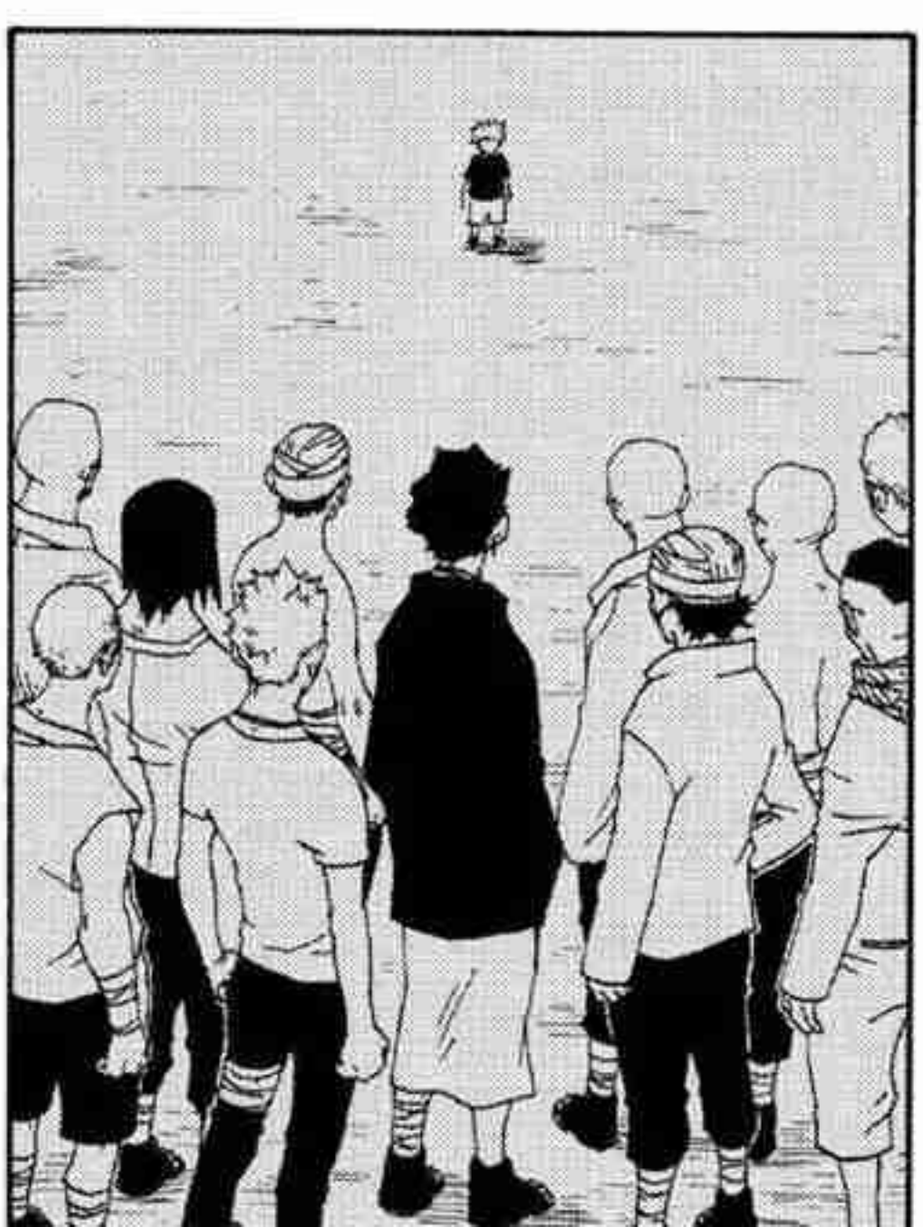
!!
BUT WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THAT THING?

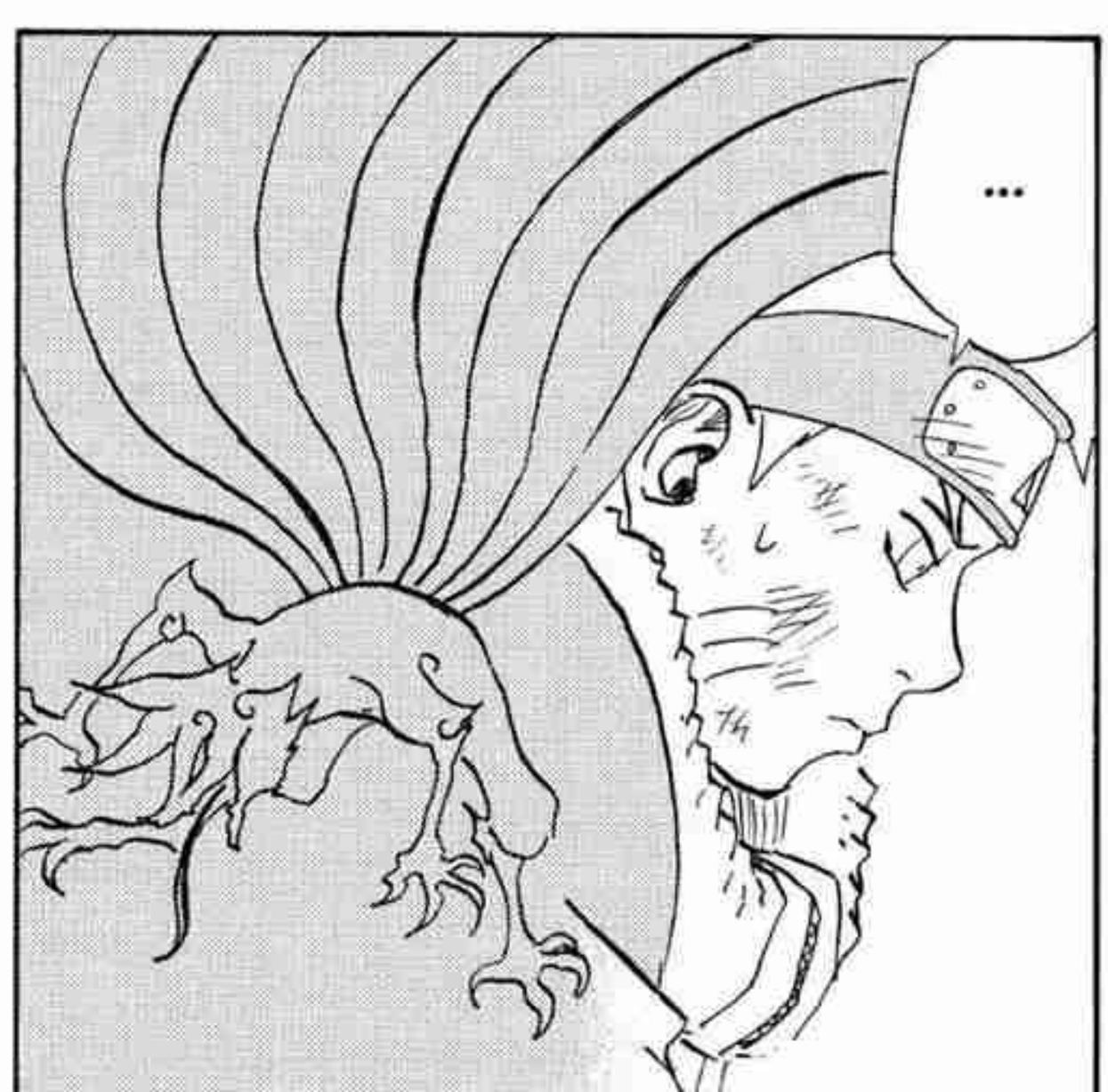



VERY... SOLITARY EYES...

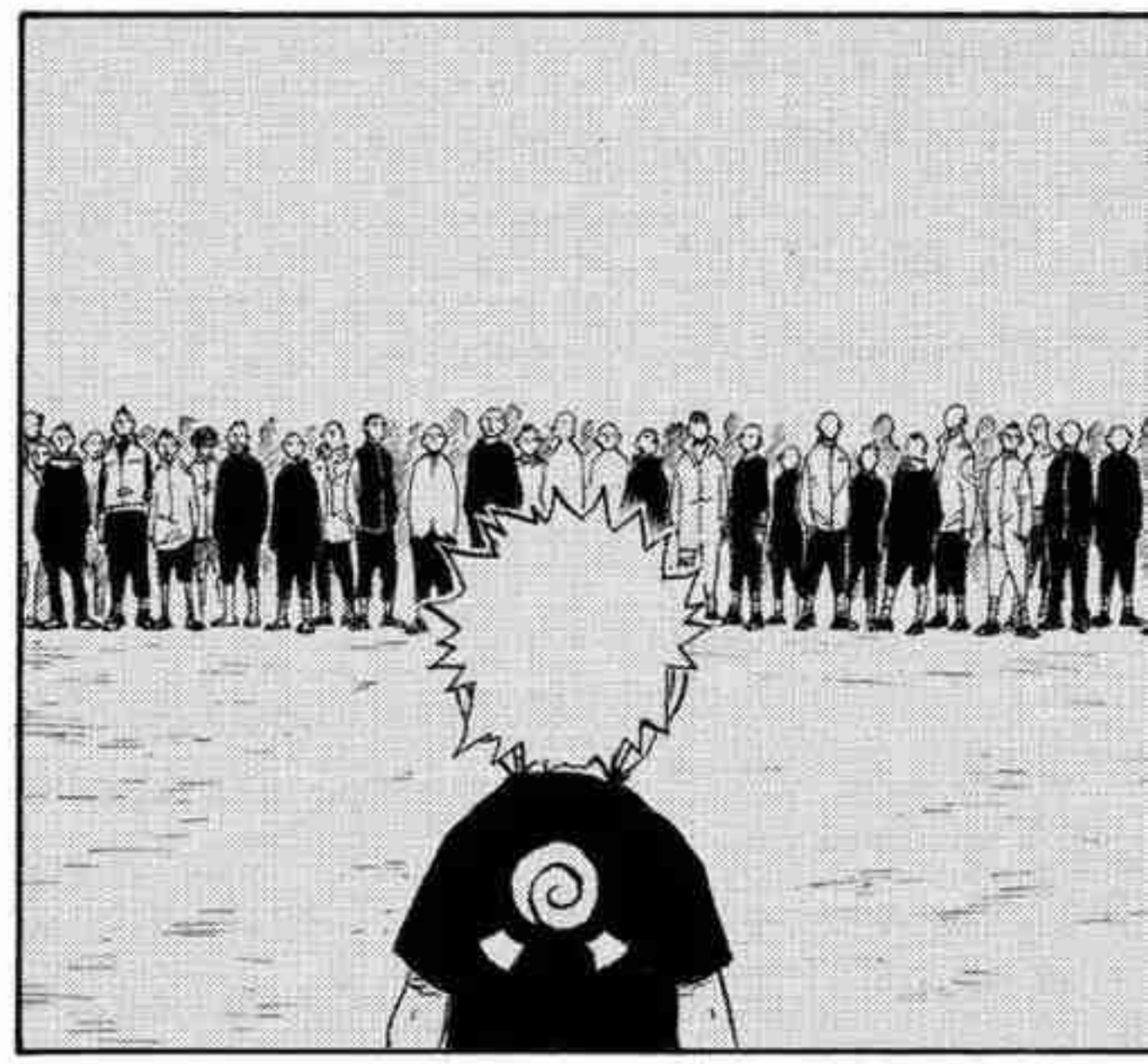
H...HE'S GOT SUCH LONELY EYES...
...


JUST LIKE ME...
HE TOO... HAS A MONSTER INSIDE HIM...

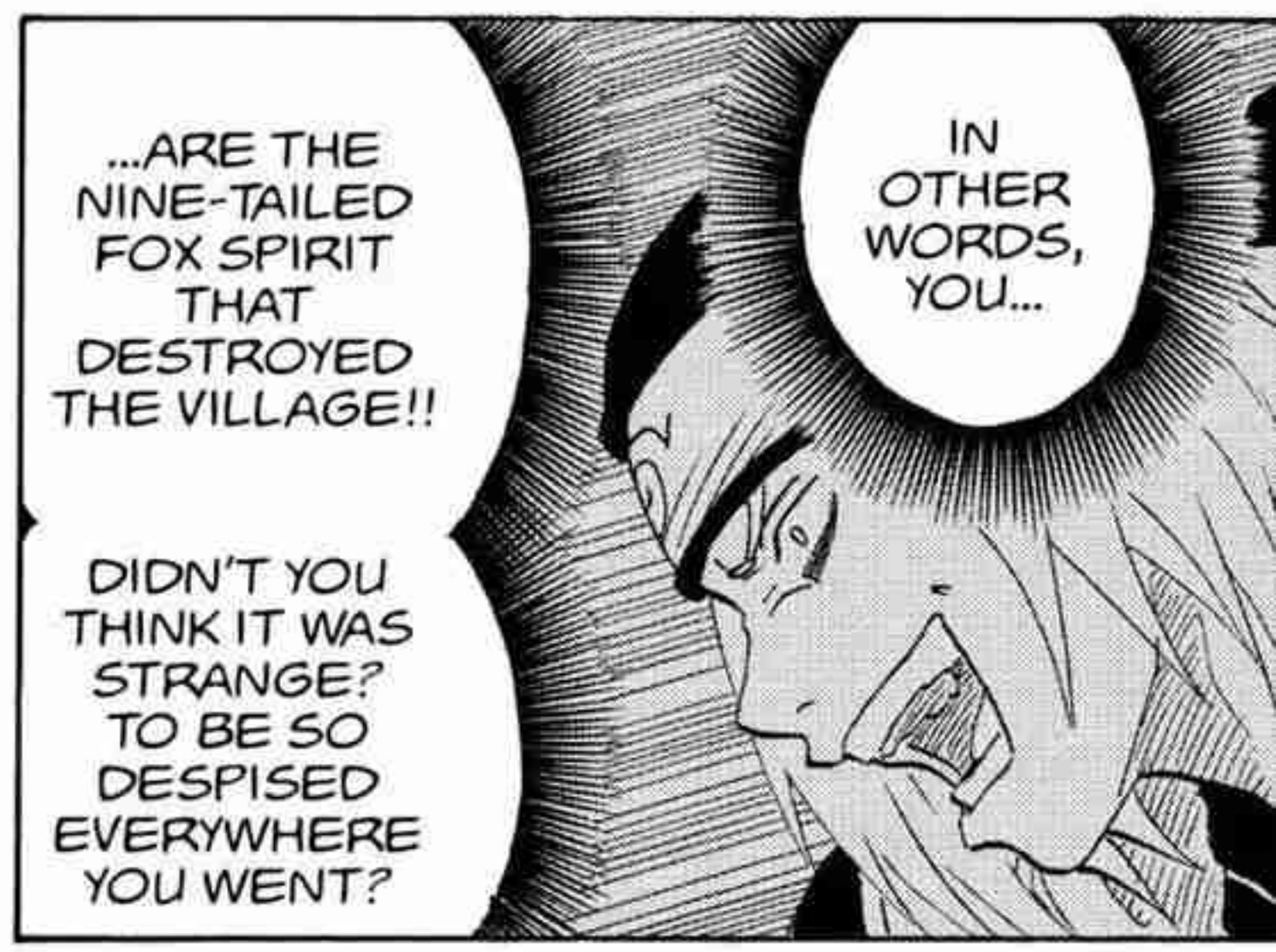



...

...I DIDN'T KNOW WHO OR WHAT I WAS TO DESERVE TO BE HATED SO MUCH, OR WHY I EXISTED...
...I HATED ALL OF THEM...



IT WAS SO PAINFUL...
EVER SINCE I FOUND OUT I HAD THE NINE-TAILED FOX INSIDE ME, EVERYONE'S EYES SEEMED EVEN MORE CALLOUS...

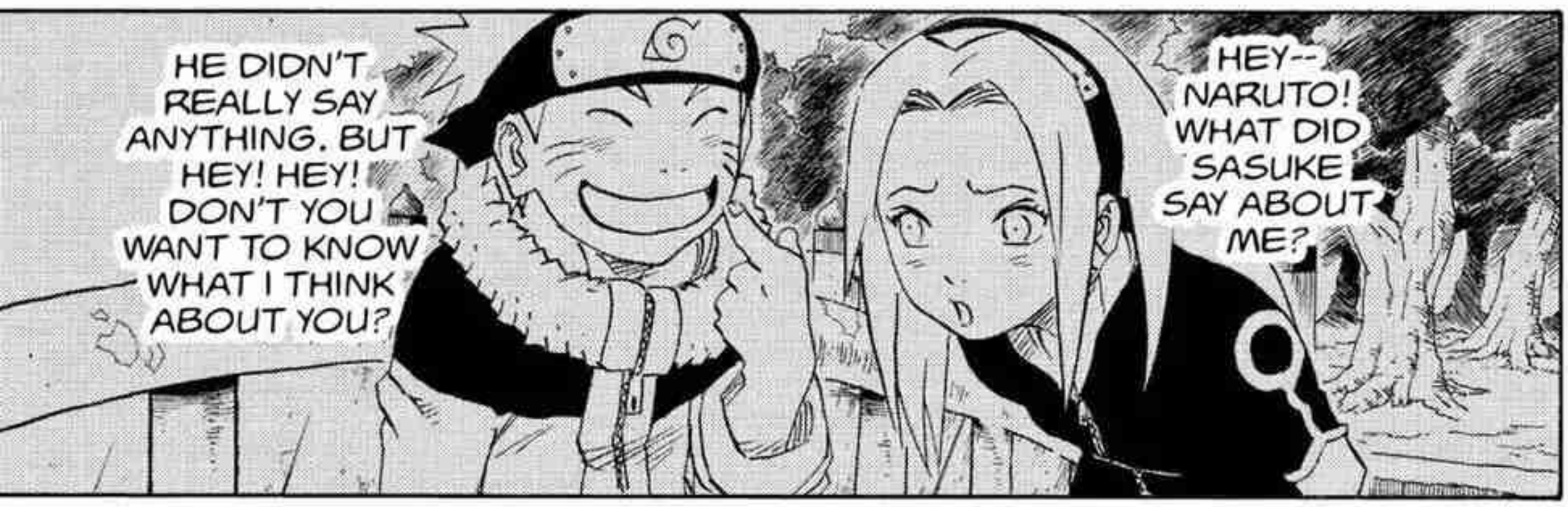

...ARE THE NINE-TAILED FOX SPIRIT THAT DESTROYED THE VILLAGE!!
DIDN'T YOU THINK IT WAS STRANGE? TO BE SO DESPISED EVERYWHERE YOU WENT?
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU...

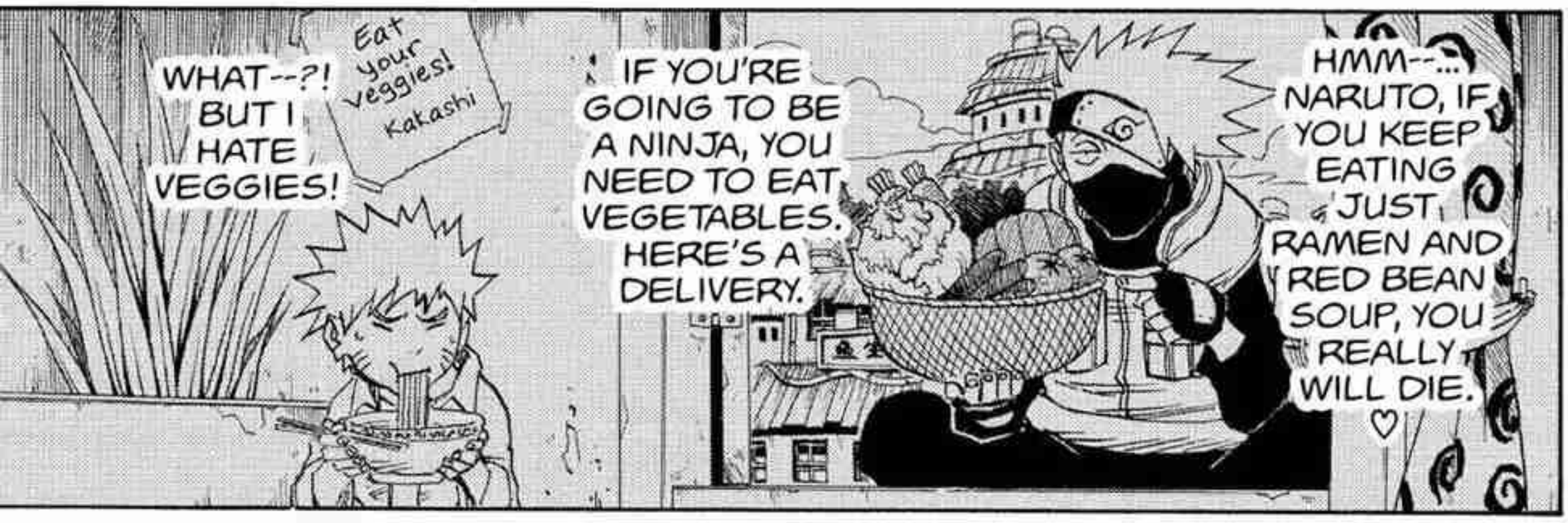
YAY! HEY! HEY! I WANT EXTRA PORK TODAY!!
NARUTO! IT'S BEEN A WHILE, WANT TO GO EAT RAMEN?!

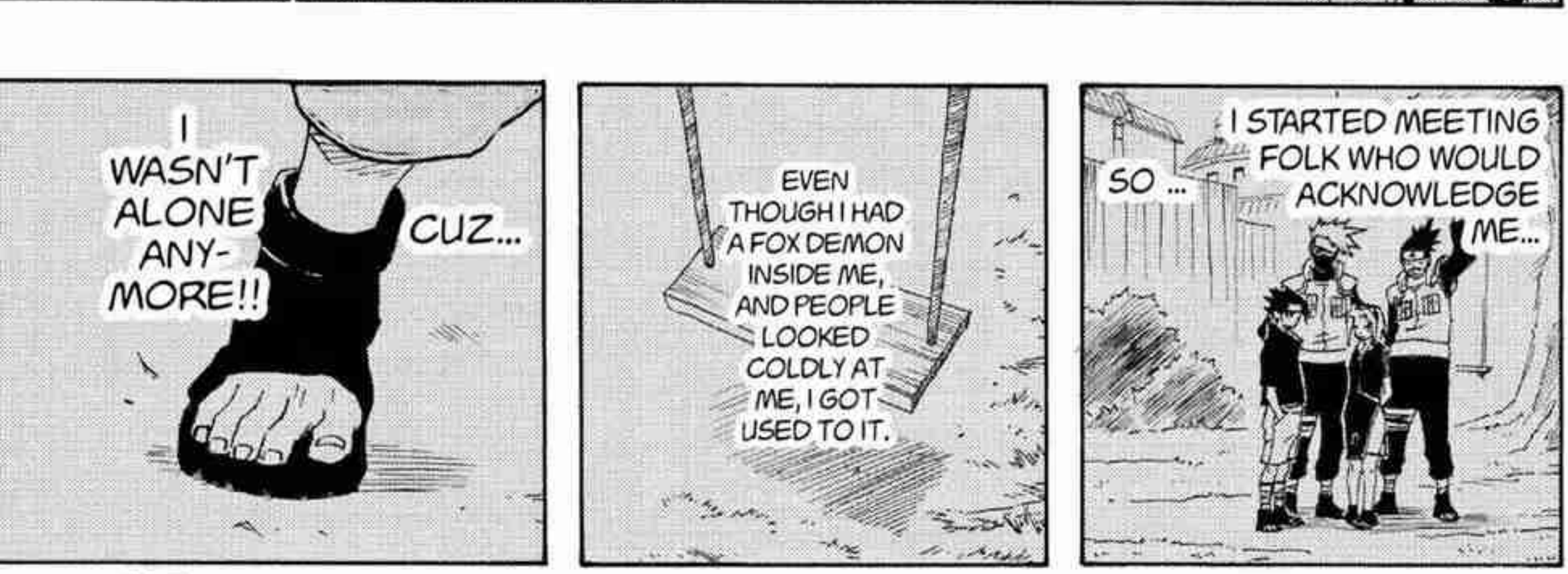
...BUT...
...

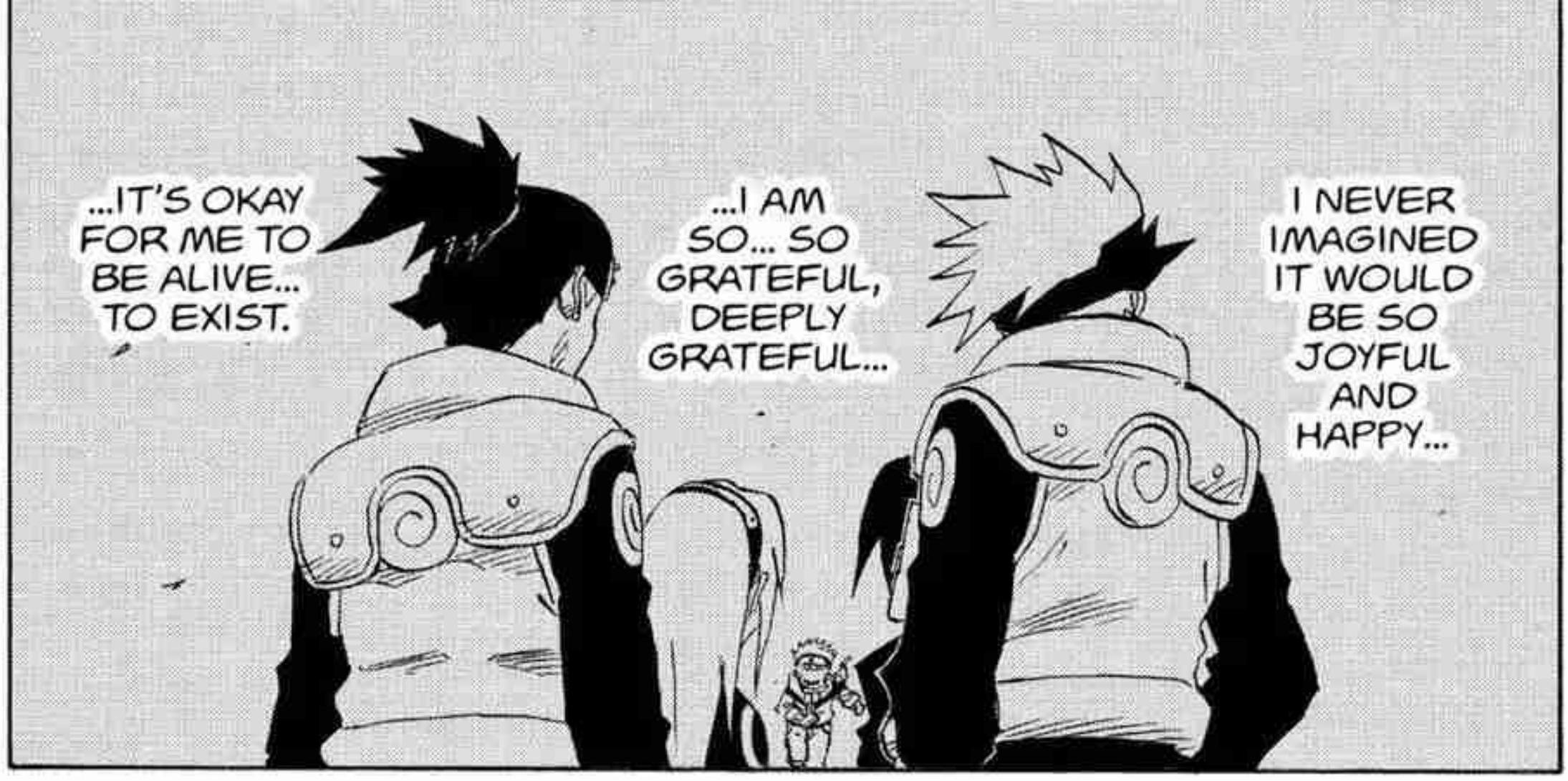
SHUT UP! I WON'T LOSE TO YOU!!

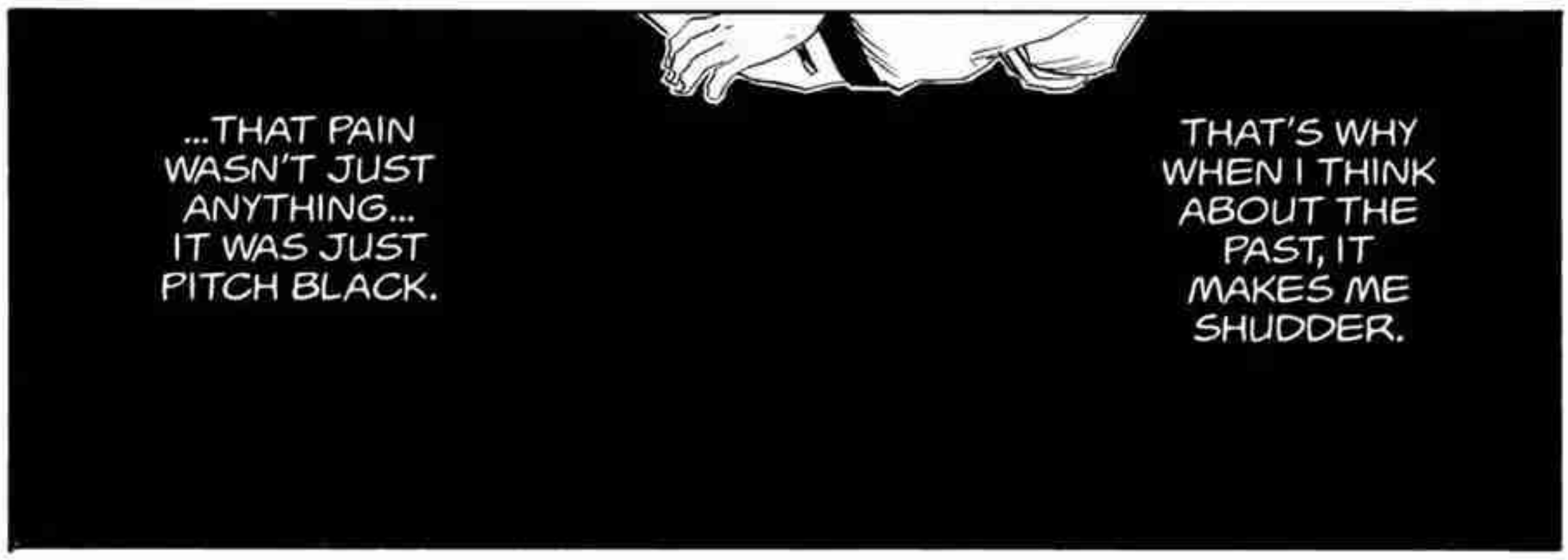
HUMPH! YOU IDIOT... IF YOU WANT TO WIN AGAINST ME, TRAIN HARDER.

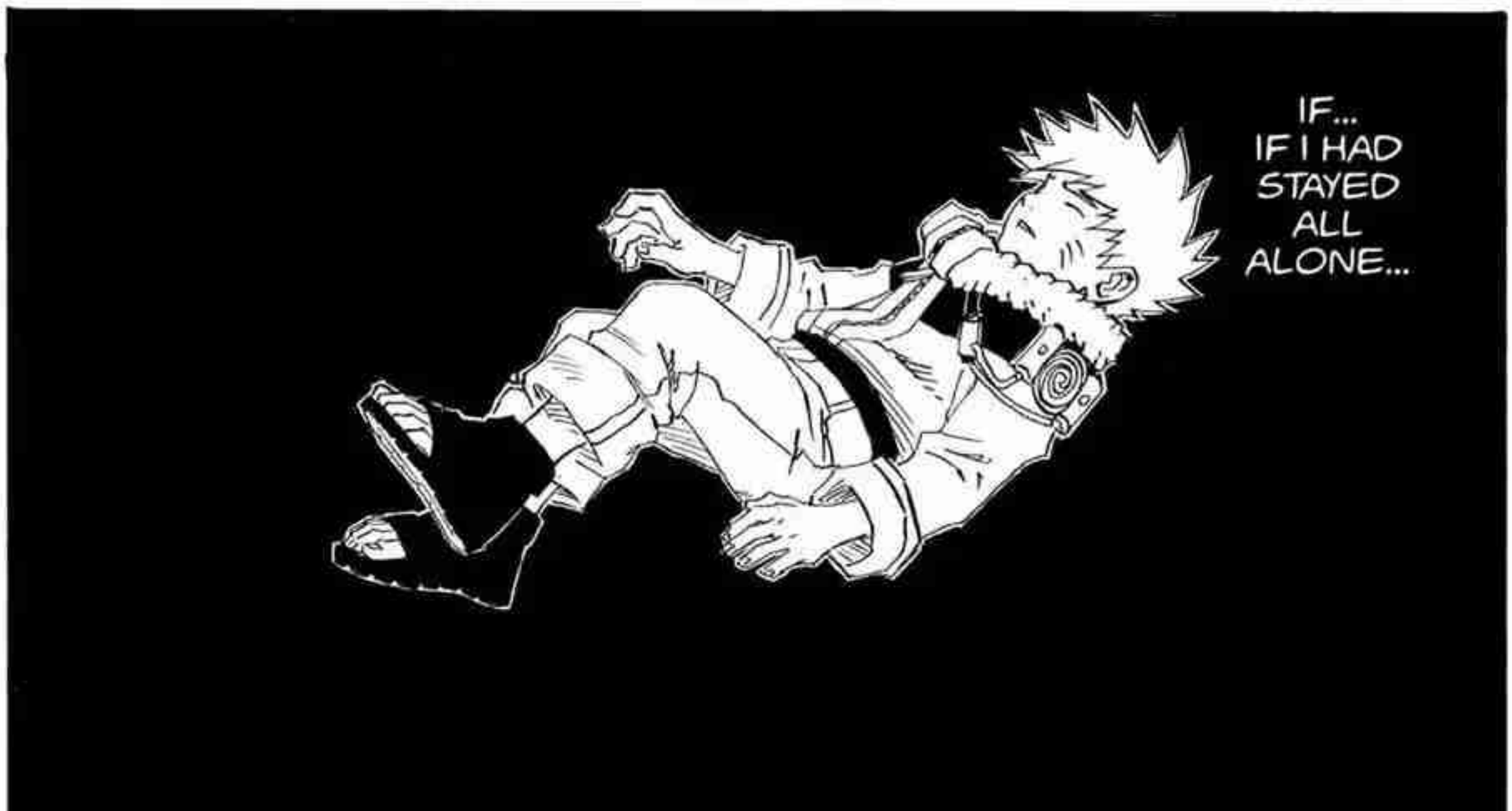


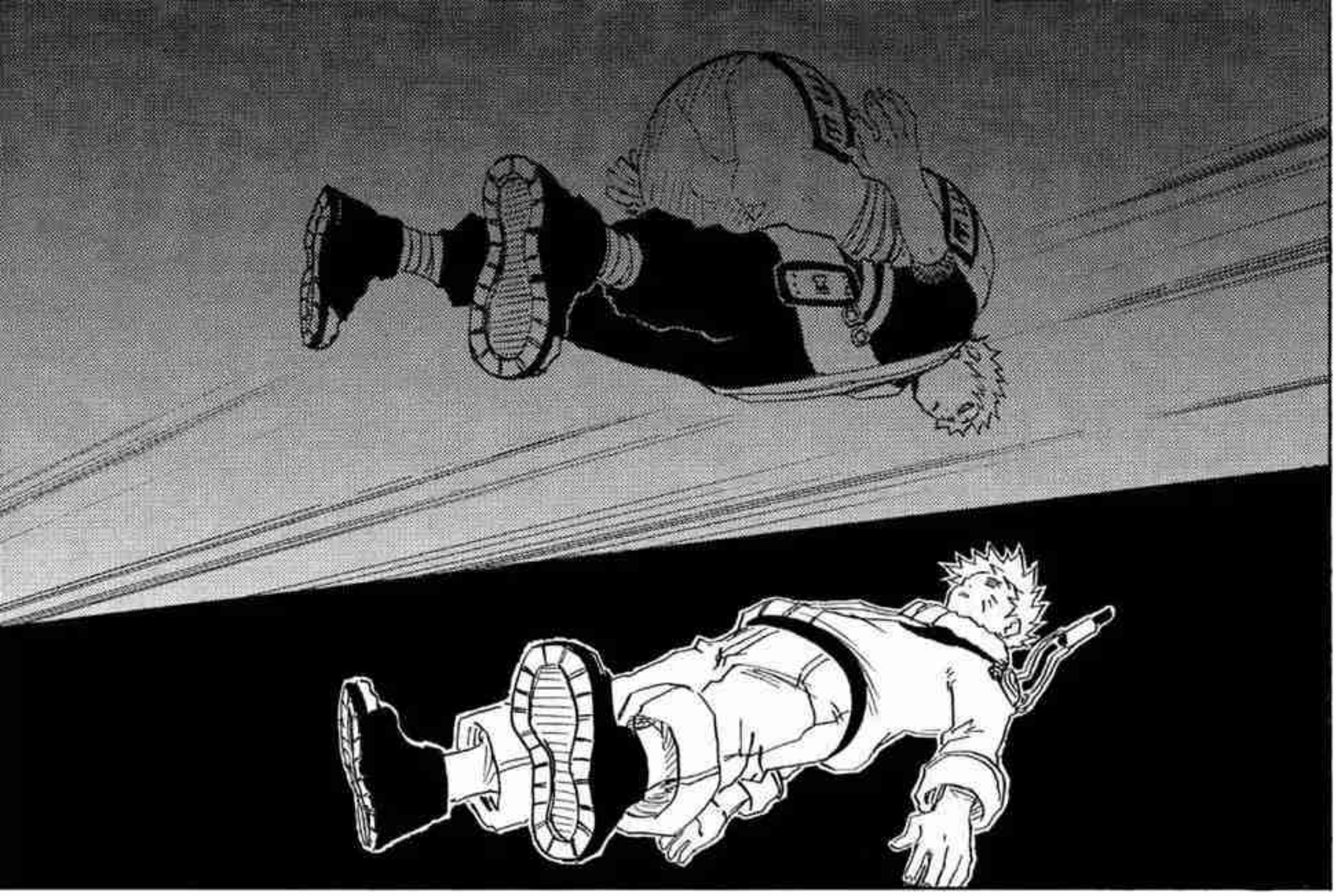





...IT'S OKAY FOR ME TO BE ALIVE... TO EXIST.
...I AM SO... SO GRATEFUL, DEEPLY GRATEFUL...
I NEVER IMAGINED IT WOULD BE SO JOYFUL AND HAPPY...


...THAT PAIN WASN'T JUST ANYTHING... IT WAS JUST PITCH BLACK.
THAT'S WHY WHEN I THINK ABOUT THE PAST, IT MAKES ME SHUDDER.


IF... IF I HAD STAYED ALL ALONE...

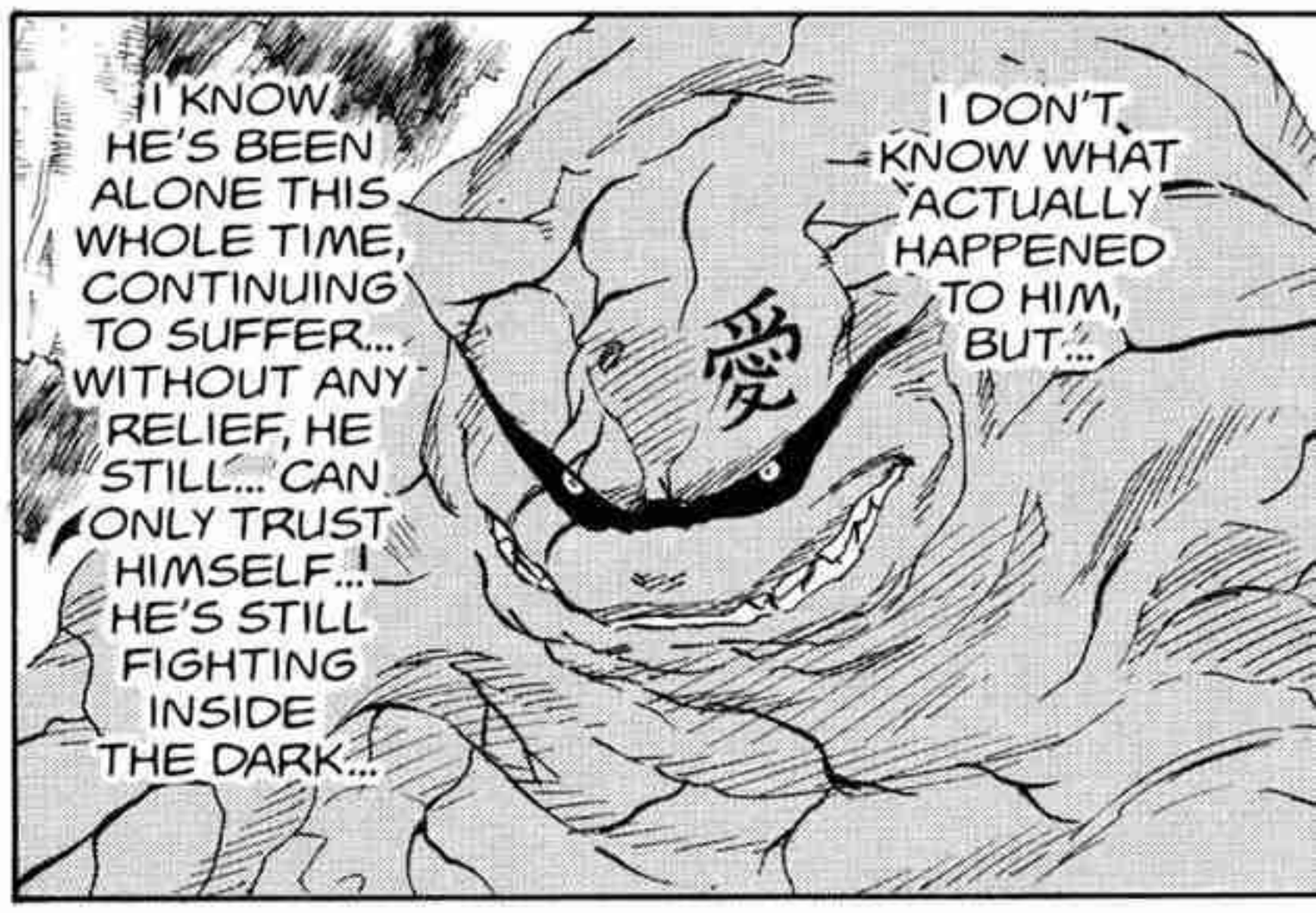


"I EXIST TO KILL ALL HUMANS OTHER THAN MYSELF."

SO THIS IS WHAT I CAME UP WITH...

SO FOR WHAT PURPOSE DO I EXIST, WHY AM I ALIVE?

TO THEM, I AM NOW A RELIC OF THE PAST THAT THEY JUST WANT TO ERASE AND FORGET.


I KNOW HE'S BEEN ALONE THIS WHOLE TIME, CONTINUING TO SUFFER... WITHOUT ANY RELIEF, HE STILL... CAN ONLY TRUST HIMSELF...! HE'S STILL FIGHTING INSIDE THE DARK...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED TO HIM, BUT...
愛

...THAT'S RIGHT...
IN HIS EYES, SOMEONE LIKE ME, WHO HAS OTHERS THAT ACKNOWLEDGE HIM... MAY SEEM LIKE A COWARD WHO LIVES IN A CAREFREE, SUNNY WORLD...

UNH...
KRRSH

...CAN I REALLY WIN AGAINST HIM...?
愛

!
WHAT'S THE MATTER... ARE YOU SCARED OF ME?

...UGH!

THAT'S THE DEFINITION OF THE STRONGEST ONE!!
YOU SHOULD ONLY LOVE YOURSELF!
ONLY FIGHT FOR YOURSELF!

...OR FOR OTHERS...
WHETHER YOU FIGHT FOR YOURSELF...
UGH...

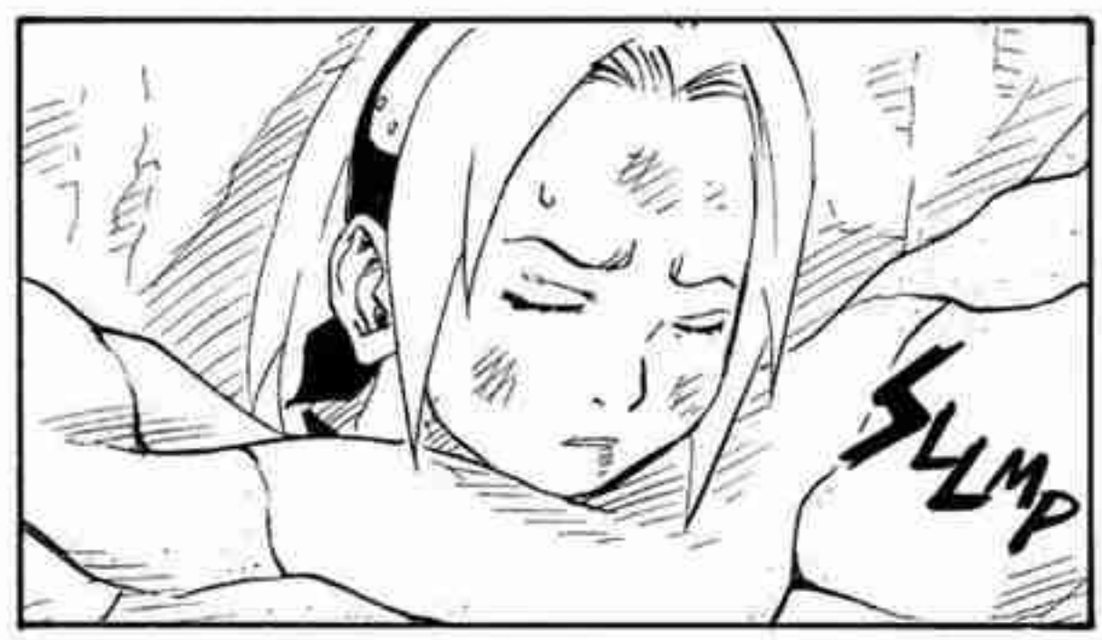
...

I'LL GRIND THAT POWER INTO NOTHING-NESS!!
KLAKK
SHOW ME YOUR POWER, JUST LIKE WHEN YOU TOOK DOWN HYUGA!
NOW! FIGHT ME!!

IF YOU DON'T FIGHT ME, I'LL KILL THAT GIRL!
WELL?! WHAT'S THE MATTER!

...

(HUF)
(HUF)
FSSH
...UGH...


SLUMP

DARN!
LEAP

WIND STYLE: MUGENSAJIN DAITOPPA! INFINITE SAND DEVAS-TATION!!

WAAH!!

VOOOO

BOOM...

BUT YOU WON'T ESCAPE.

FIRST, I'M GOING TO PLAY WITH YOU WITHOUT LETTING YOU DIE.

I WANT TO SEE HOW LONG IT TAKES FOR YOU TO GIVE UP ON YOUR FRIENDS AND TRY TO RUN AWAY.

UGH...

YIKES... THAT REALLY HURT...

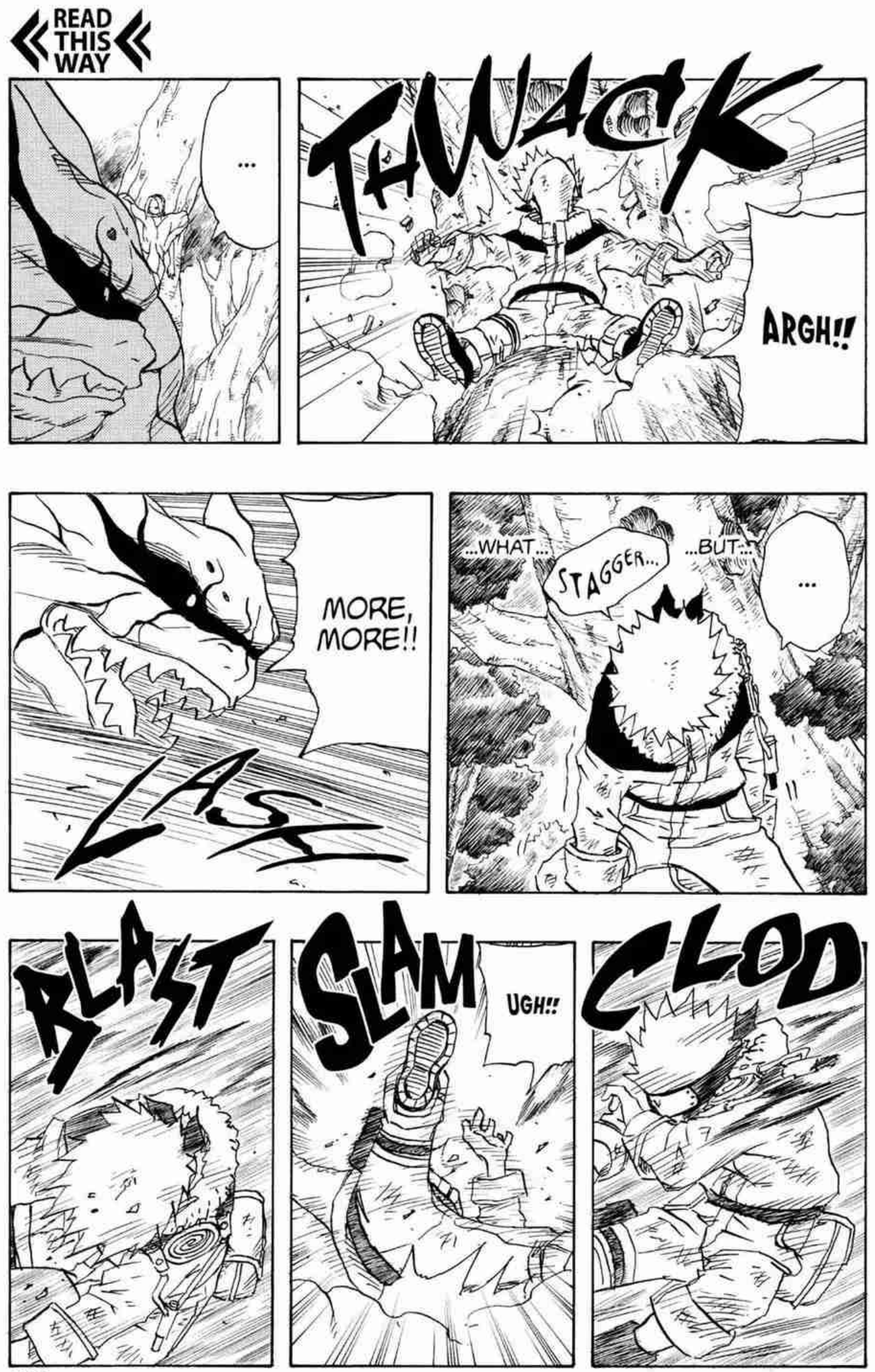
THUD

THUD

HUMPH...

...

SHF

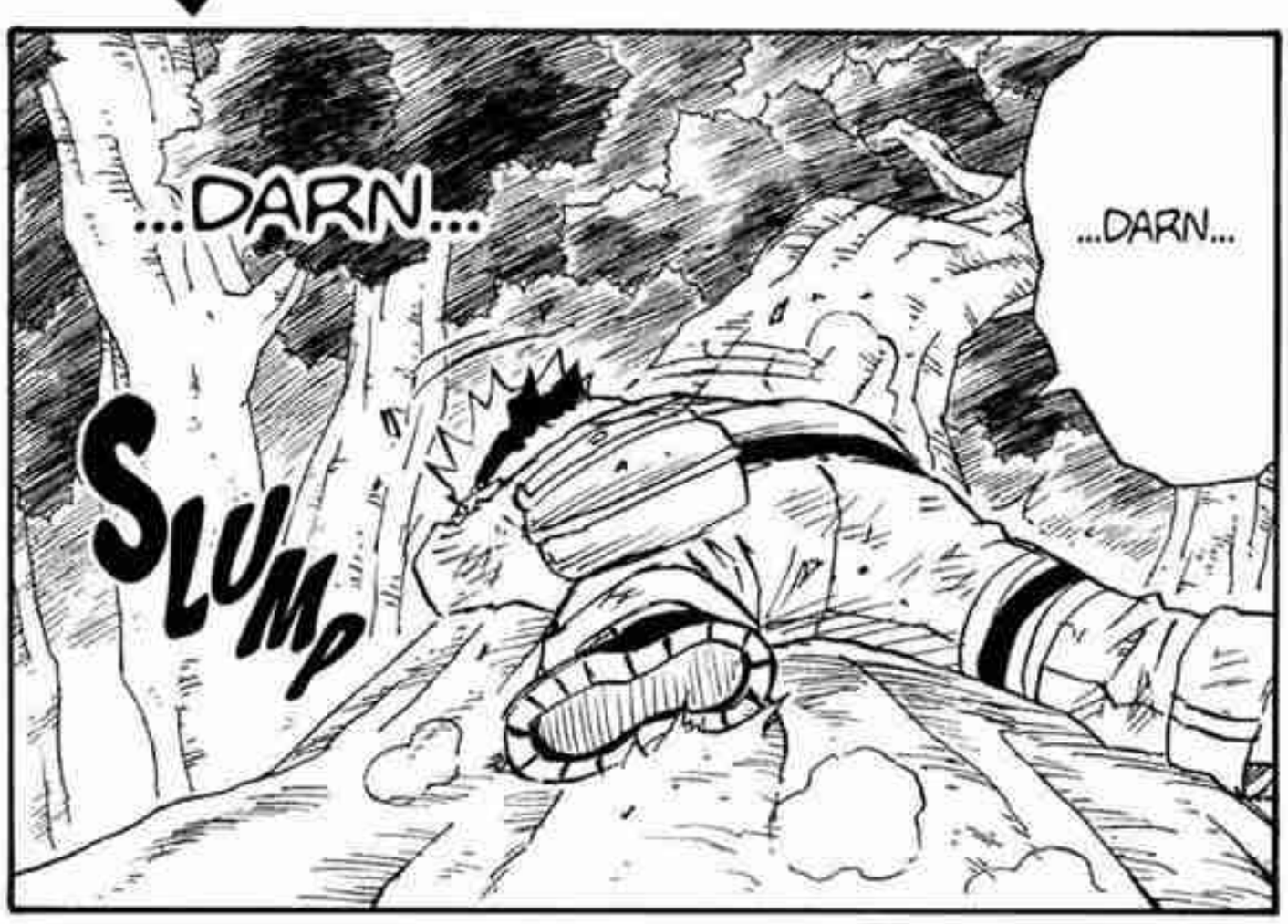

READ THIS WAY
...
THWACK
ARGH!!
MORE, MORE!!
LAST
...WHAT...
STAGGER...
...BUT...
...
BLAST
SLAM
UGH!!
CLOD

SAND SHURIKEN!!
...ARGH...

...
愛

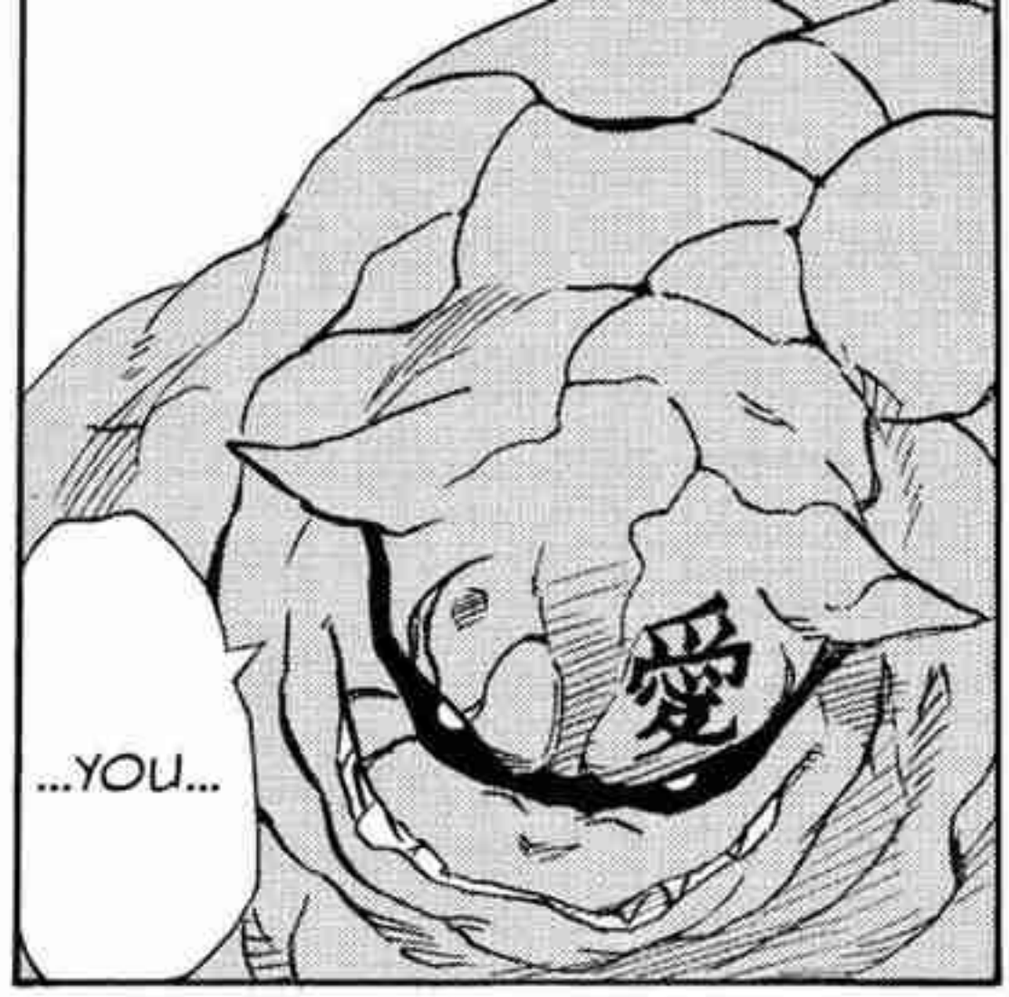
WHY...DO I FEEL LIKE THIS...
SHF
...

WHOO
OOOM
GAH!!


...DARN...
SLUMP
...DARN...

...!

...
...HE...


愛
...YOU...

...JUST... JUST AGAINST THIS GUY...
STAGGER...
...FOR WHAT-EVER REASON ...

...THIS FEELING WELLING UP...?
...WHAT IS IT...
...

GRRR

I DON'T WANT TO LOSE TO HIM EVEN IF I END UP DYING!!

THE WORLD OF KISHIMOTO MASASHI
MY PERSONAL HISTORY, PART 22 (PART 3)

REGULARLY MIMICKING THE ART STYLES OF MY FAVORITE ANIMATORS AT THE TIME, SUCH AS OKIURA-SAN AND MORIMOTO KOUJI-SAN, STARTED SHIFTING MY STYLE TOWARD SEINEN MAGAZINES AND AWAY FROM SHONEN MAGAZINES AGAIN. ...THAT'S WHEN I FORTUITOUSLY SAW IN MY TARGET MAGAZINE THAT THE SERIES THAT I LIKED EVEN AS A MANGA, *NINKÛ*, HAD BECOME ANIMATED, SO I DECIDED I WOULD WATCH IT WHILE EATING A SALMON BENTO AND PREPARED MY MEAL AND SAT MYSELF DOWN IN FRONT OF THE TELEVISION. THE MOMENT I STUCK THE DISPOSABLE CHOPSTICKS IN MY MOUTH TO SPLIT THEM APART, THE *NINKÛ* ANIME STARTED, AND I GOT DRAWN RIGHT INTO THE OPENING SEQUENCE WITH THE STILL UNBROKEN CHOPSTICKS FORGOTTEN IN MY MOUTH.

IT MADE SUCH AN IMPACT ON ME! FOR IT CONTAINED NEW DISTORTIONS, HAD GREAT SENSE, EVEN BETTER ART, AND ON TOP OF IT ALL, JUST INDESCRIBABLE, REALLY REFRESHING LINE TECHNIQUE THAT SEEMED LIKE A MIX OF SEINEN AND SHONEN STYLES. IN SHORT, IT WAS THE IDEAL ART STYLE THAT I HAD BEEN SEEKING.

"THIS IS IT!" I THOUGHT TO MYSELF.

SINCE THEN, I STARTED MIMICKING NISHIO-SAN'S DRAWINGS, AND IT PRETTY MUCH WAS THE BASIS FOR THE ART STYLE OF THIS CURRENT *NARUTO*. AND AS SOME OF YOU MAY KNOW, AMONG ONE OF THE CHARACTER DESIGNERS FOR THE *NARUTO* ANIME IS NISHIO TETSUYA-SAN HIMSELF. I AM A LUCKY MAN. THE MAN THAT I RESPECTED AND RECEIVED SO MUCH INFLUENCE FROM IS DOING DESIGNS FOR ME! IT WAS A REALLY HAPPY MOMENT FOR ME WHEN I HEARD THIS, LIKE ONE OF MY DREAMS HAD COME TRUE (AND IN THAT INSTANT, I INVOLUNTARILY PUMPED MY FISTS IN THE AIR.) PLUS, ANOTHER ONE OF THE CHARACTER DESIGNERS IS SUZUKI HIROFUMI-SAN. HE IS AN AWESOME FELLOW WHO HAS WORKED ON SOME OF MY FAVORITE ANIME. THEY ARE SUCH GREAT ARTISTS THAT I'M EMBARRASSED THAT THEY LOOK AT MY MANGA.

Number 133:

MUF

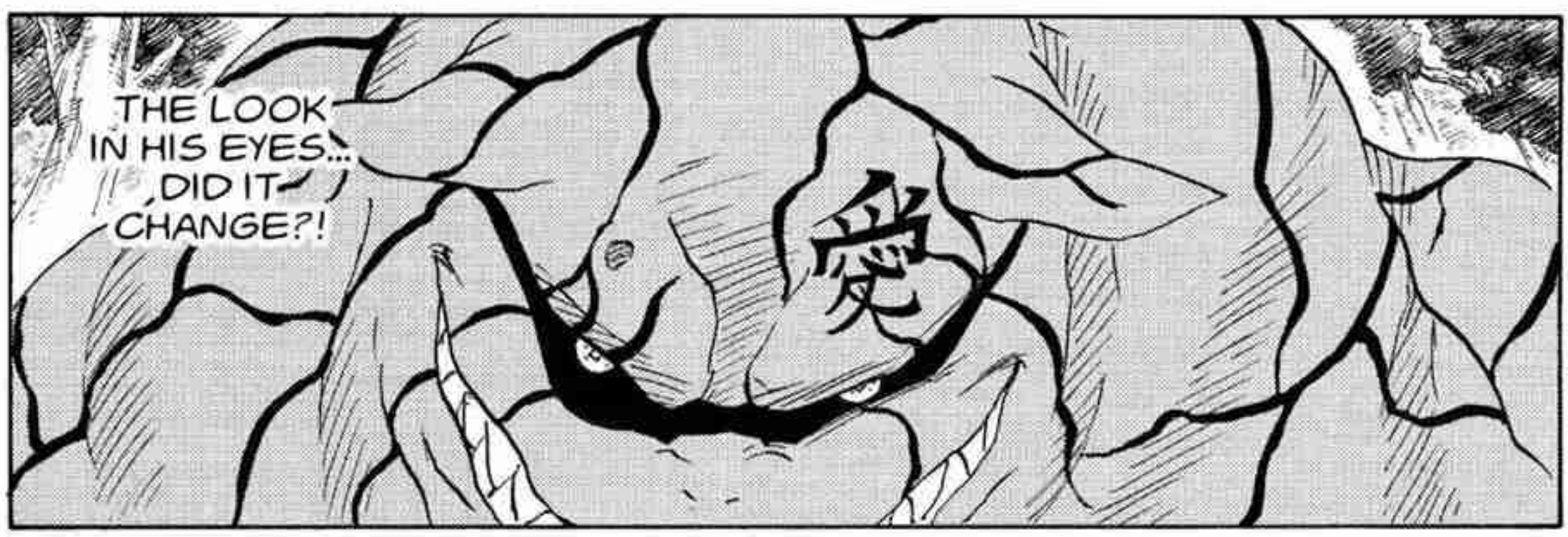
MUF

MUF

MUF

TREMBLE...

Those Who Are Strong...!!zz



SAKURA...

UNH...
SQUEEZE...

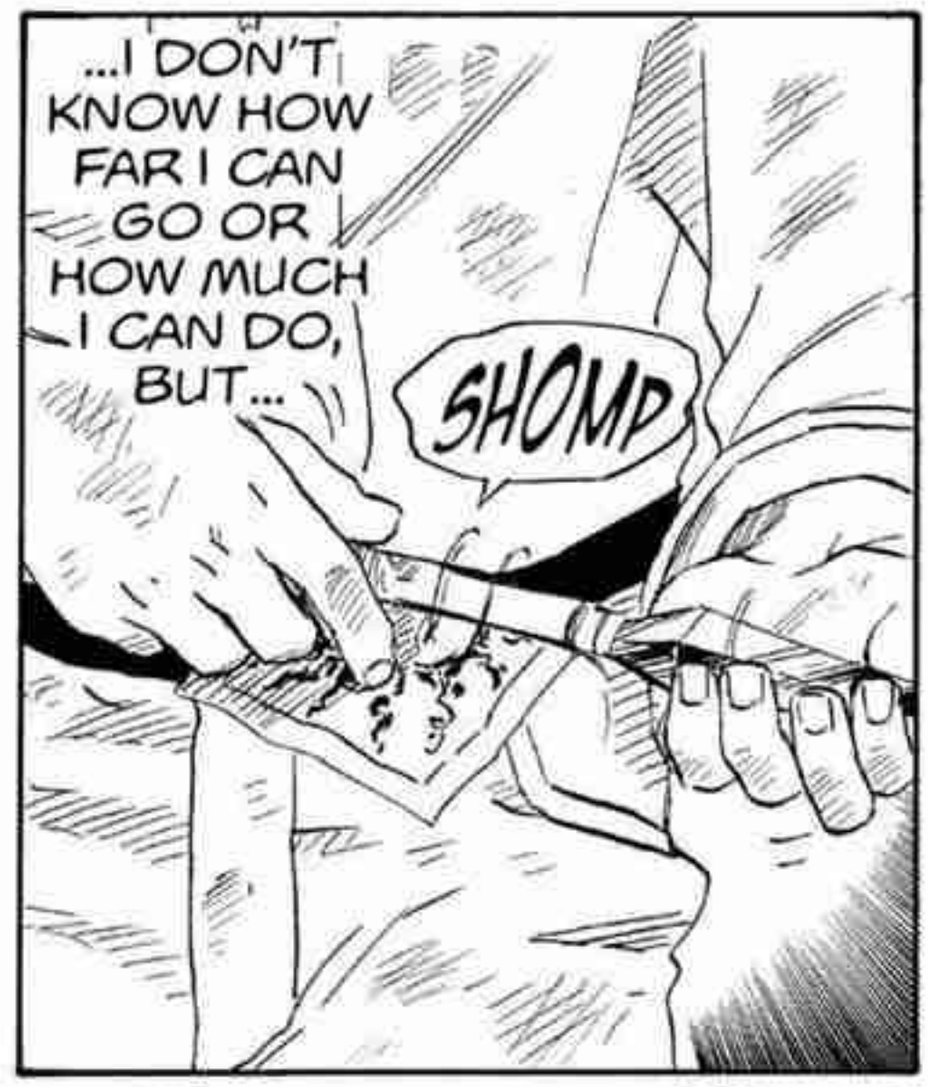
FOLD

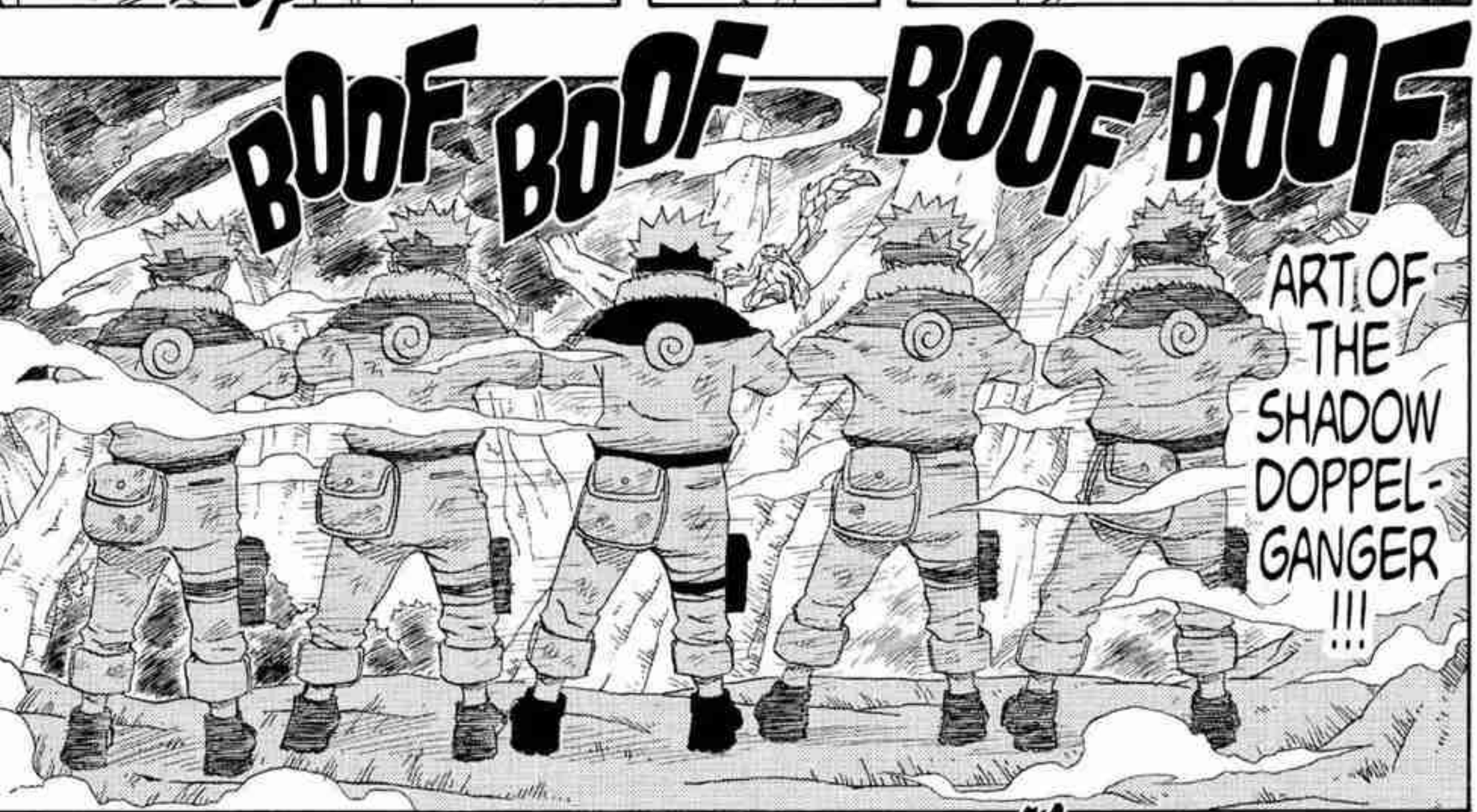
FWUP

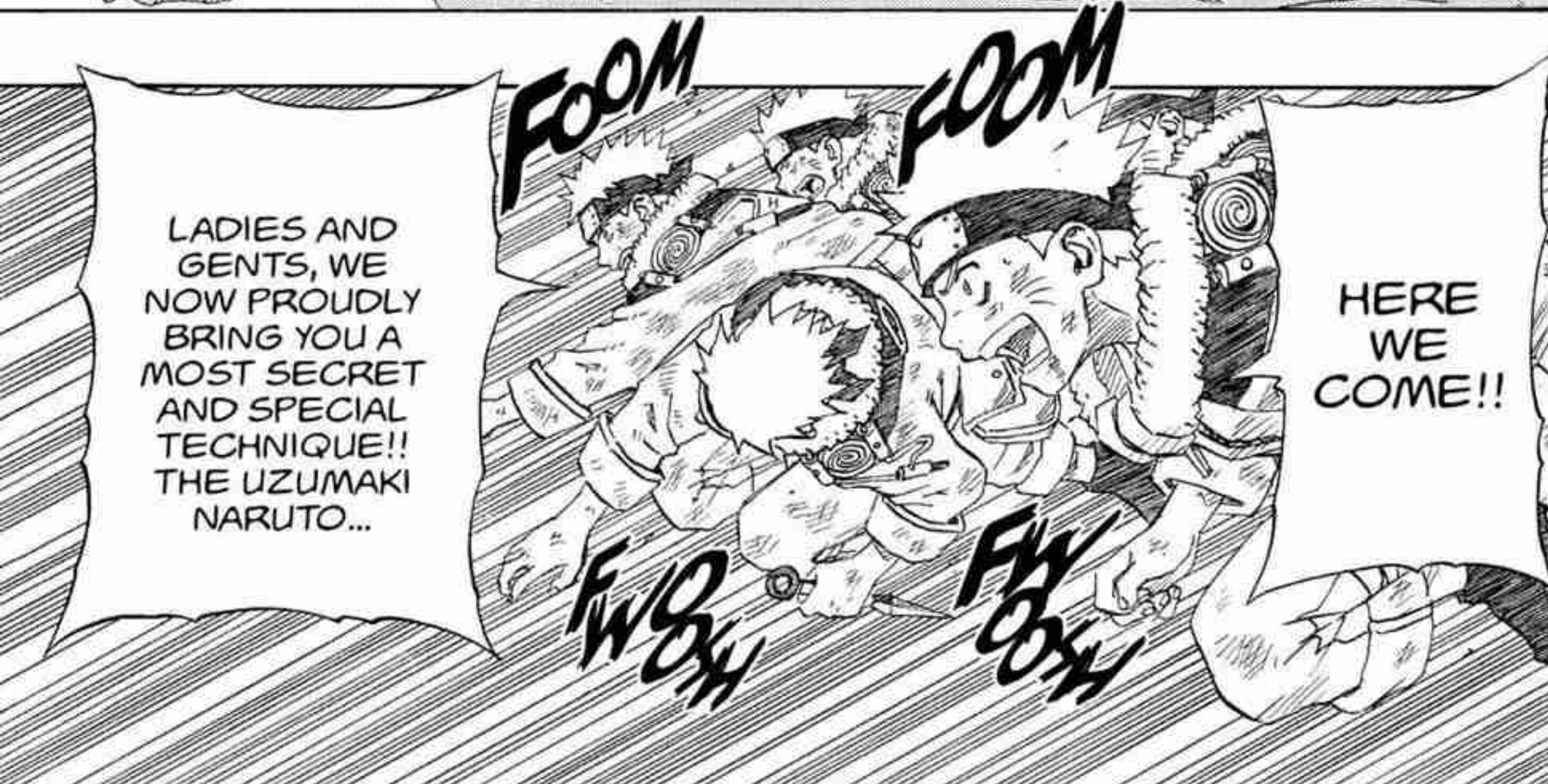
YOU CAN'T EVEN COME CLOSE TO TOUCHING ME...
WHAT'S THE MATTER...? YOU'RE THE ONE WHO HUNTED ME DOWN. SCARED?
WHAT A JOKE...!

I'M GONNA GIVE IT EVERY-THING I'VE GOT!!
FWUP
FWUP

!


...I DON'T KNOW HOW FAR I CAN GO OR HOW MUCH I CAN DO, BUT...
SHOMP


BOOF BOOF BOOF BOOF
ART OF THE SHADOW DOPPEL-GANGER !!!


LADIES AND GENTS, WE NOW PROUDLY BRING YOU A MOST SECRET AND SPECIAL TECHNIQUE!! THE UZUMAKI NARUTO...
FOOM
FOOM
FWOSH
FWOSH
HERE WE COME!!

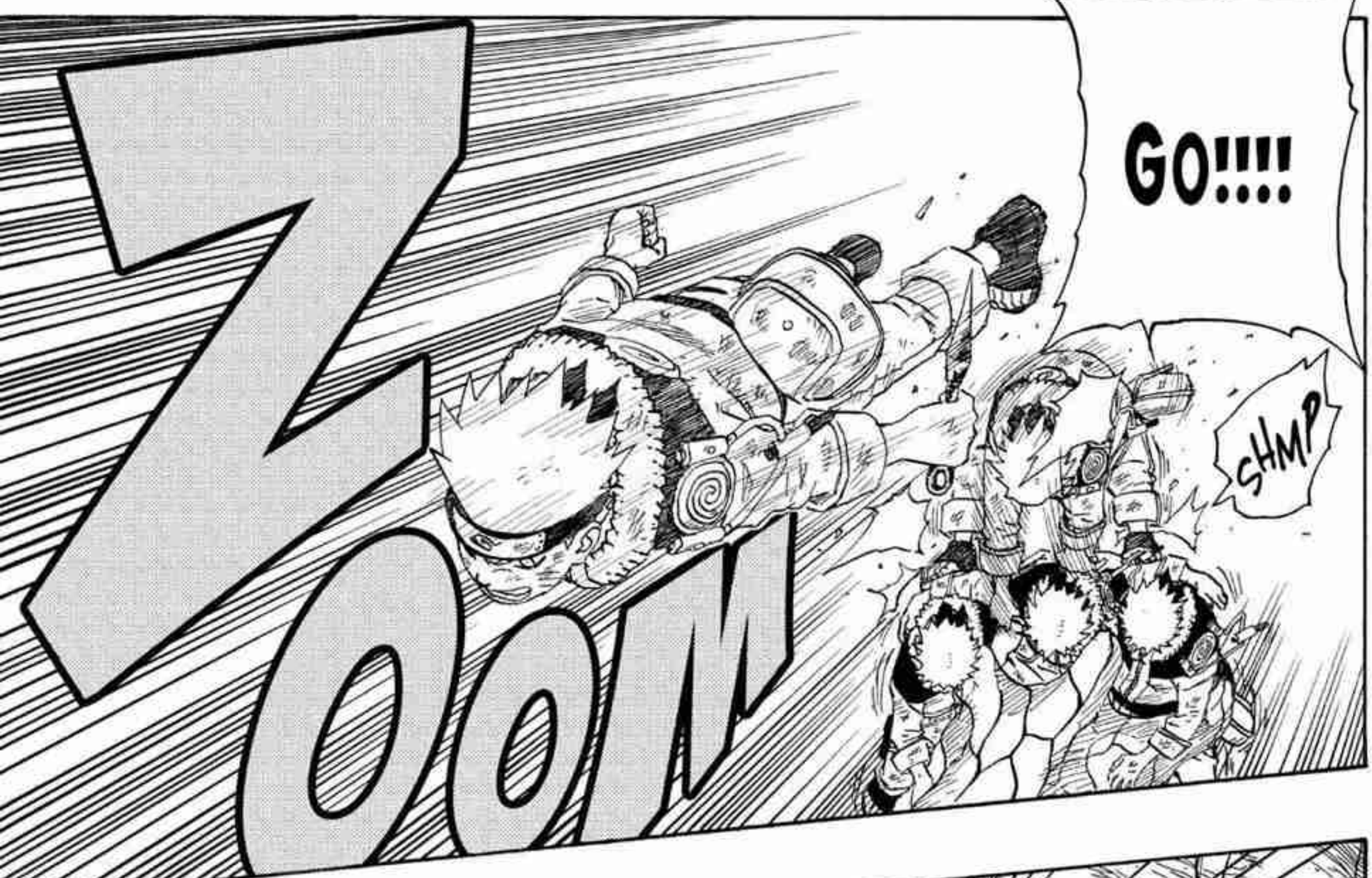
BUNSHIN TAIATARI! DOPPEL-GANGER BODY SLAM!!

KRSH

SUF OOSH

CLENCH
CLENCH

ROGER!!
NOW!!


GO!!!!
SHMP
OOM

FWUP

HA!!

BOOF

GRAB

SPIN SPIN

!

KAGEBUNSHIN NO JUTSU! ART OF THE SHADOW DOPPEL-GANGER!!

ONE MORE! ART OF THE SHADOW DOPPEL-GANGER!!

BOOF

BOOM

MASTER KAKASHI'S SPECIALTY... KONOHAGAKURE VILLAGE'S MOST SACRED TECHNIQUE!!

TAKE THIS!!

UGH!

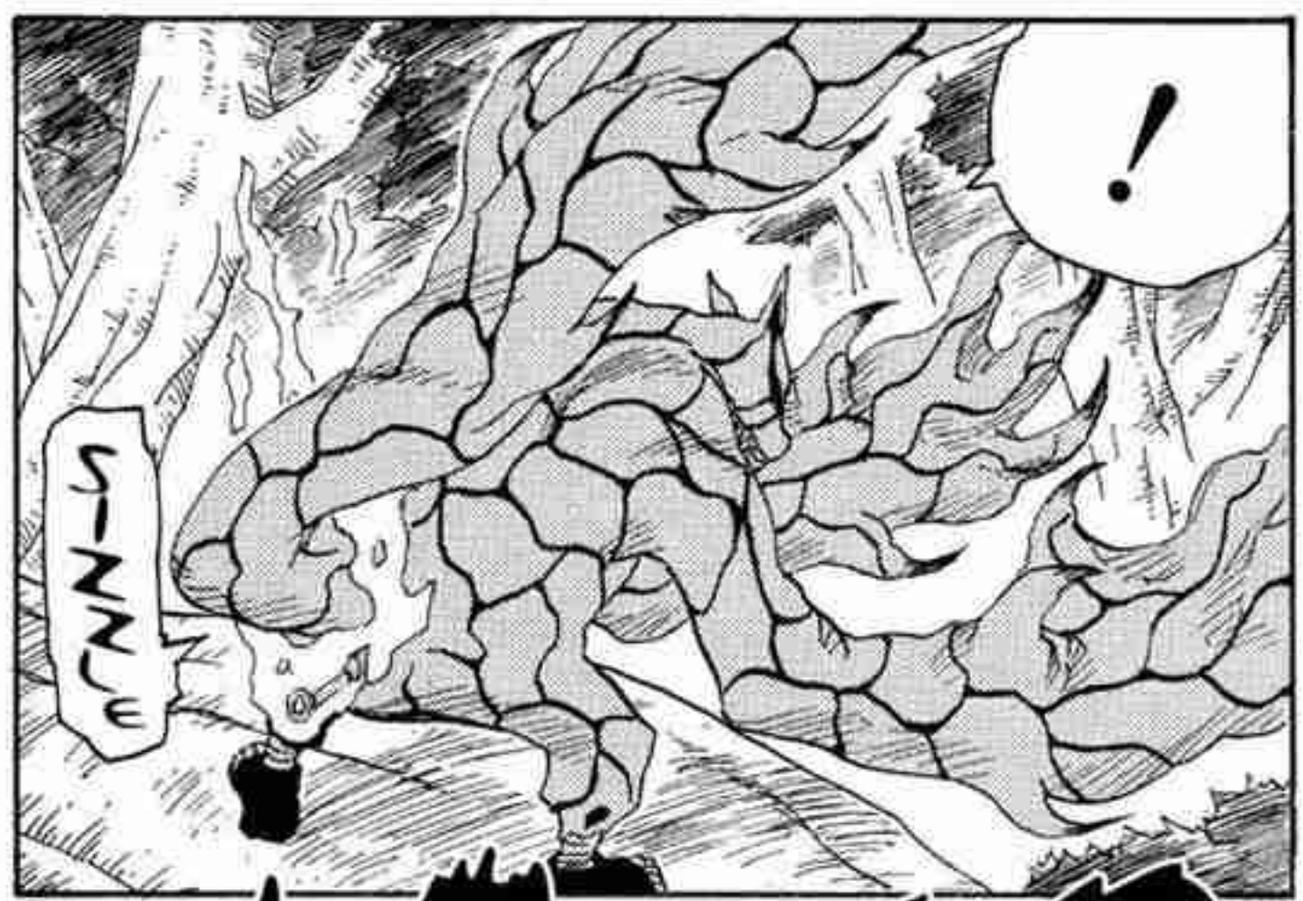
POKE

ONE THOUSAND YEARS OF DEATH!!

...

...

KA


!
TINNE

SIZZLE

KABOOM

...KABOOM.

SLAM

STUMP

ARGH!!

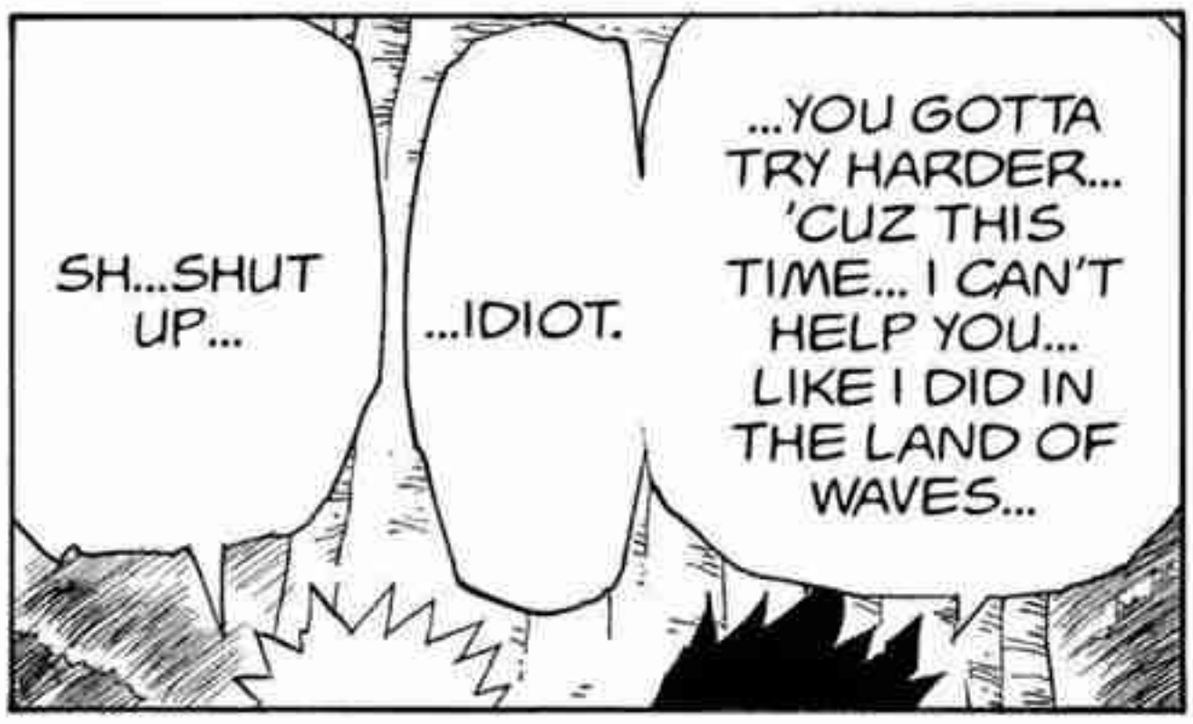
THUD

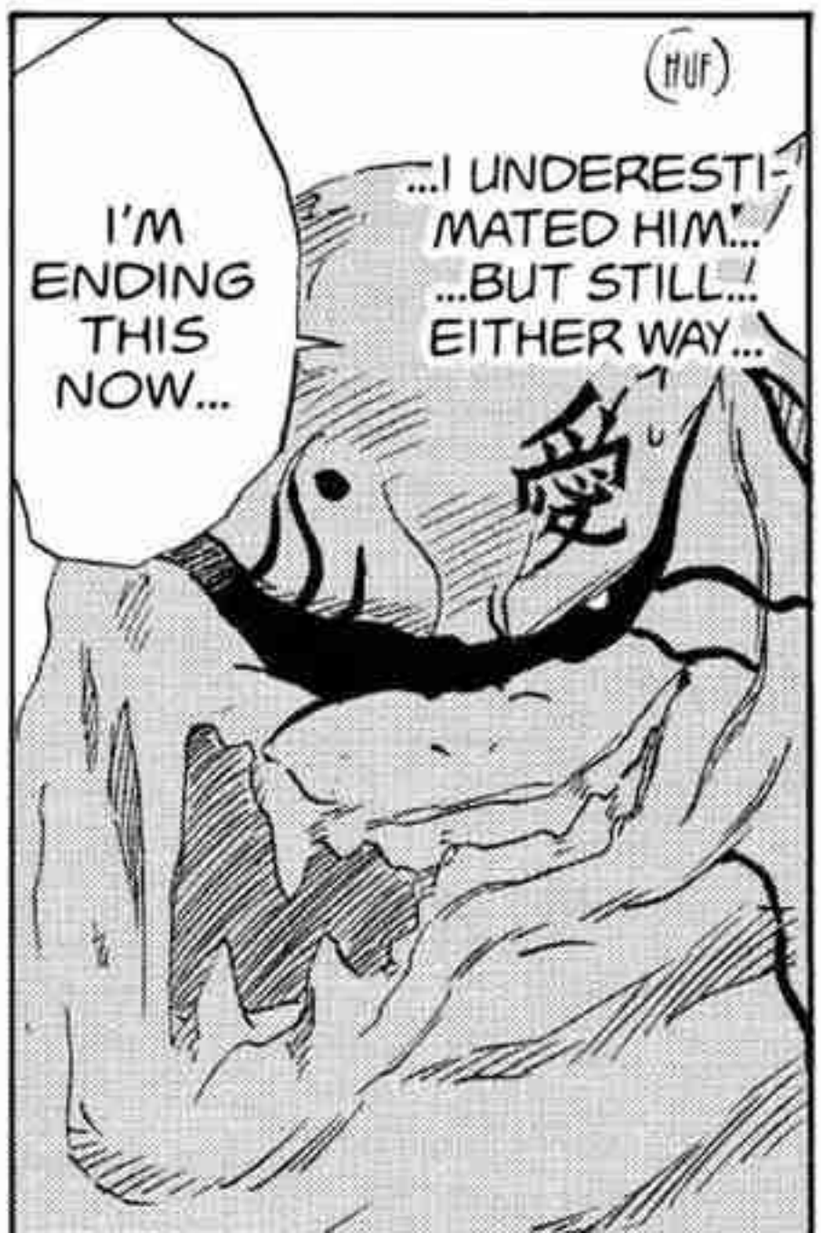
UGH!!

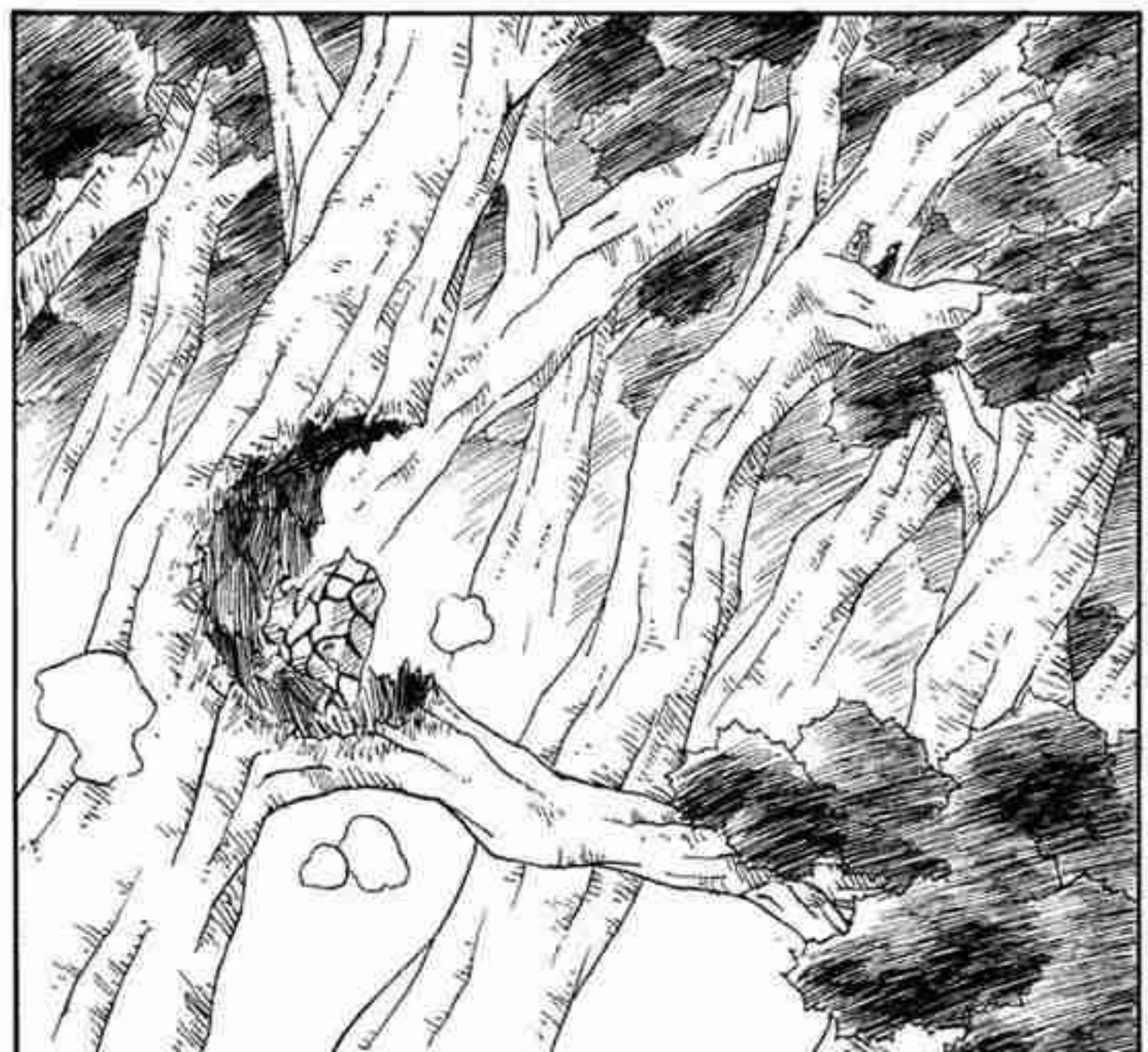
...SASUKE...!
(HUF)
(HUF)

...UGH... HE MANAGED TO TARGET THAT LETTER BOMB RIGHT AT MY WEAKEST SPOT—UNDER MY TAIL...
GRRR...
I CAN'T ABSORB ALL OF THE IMPACT...

...BUT AFTER ALL THAT... JUST ONE BLOW?
HEH... YOU'RE FINALLY SHOWING YOUR STUFF...
(HUF)
(HUF)


SH...SHUT UP...
...IDIOT.
...YOU GOTTA TRY HARDER... 'CUZ THIS TIME... I CAN'T HELP YOU... LIKE I DID IN THE LAND OF WAVES...


I'M ENDING THIS NOW...
(HUF)
...I UNDERESTIMATED HIM... ...BUT STILL... EITHER WAY...
愛



...!!

...BETTER RESCUE SAKURA, NO MATTER WHAT!
YOU...
HUF
HUF

...!
...HEY... NARUTO.
HUF
HUF

!!

...I TRUST YOU TO BE ABLE TO DO IT...
U... UNH.

...
STRUGGLE

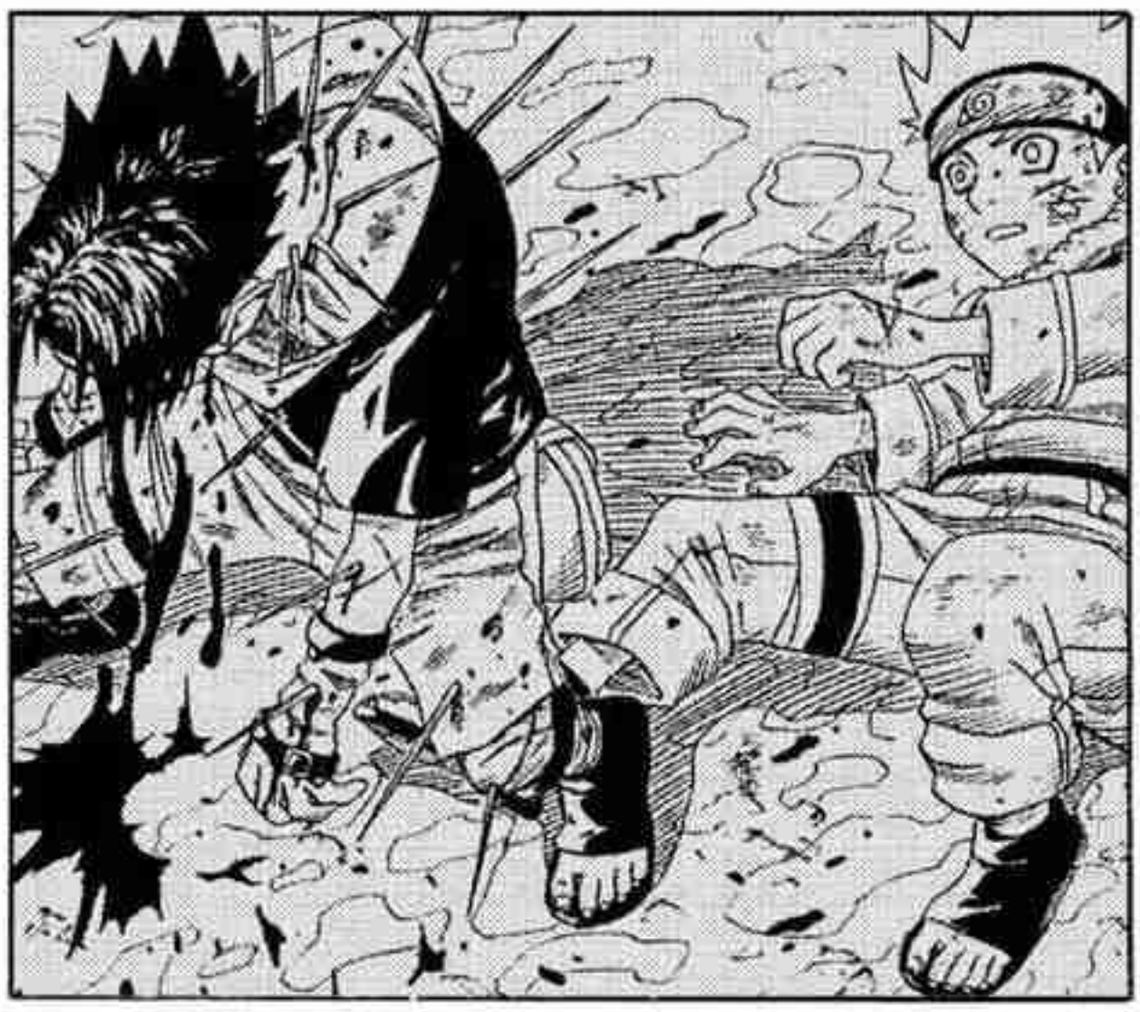
IT'S OVER. THAT'S ALL I CAN DO.
...EVEN IN THIS STATE... I CAN AT LEAST... DELAY HIM A LITTLE...
STRUGGLE...

TAKE HER... AND GET THE HECK OUT OF HERE...
...AND THEN... ONCE YOU FREE HER...
... SASUKE... WHAT...?

...NO MORE ...

...WANT TO WATCH MY **PRECIOUS COMRADES** DIE IN FRONT OF ME AGAIN...

I'VE ALREADY LOST EVERY-THING ONCE BEFORE... I DON'T EVER...



YOU'RE ABSO-LUTELY RIGHT...
...

I WILL NEVER LET MY COMRADES DIE!

...AND YET HE KEPT FIGHTING FOR HIMSELF FROM INSIDE THAT CORE OF SOLITUDE...
RISE
...I THOUGHT OF HIM AS STRONG...
'CUZ LIKE ME, HE GREW UP WRAPPED IN LONELINESS AND SADNESS...

!

YOU CAN'T REALLY GET STRONG JUST FIGHTING ONLY FOR YOURSELF...
...BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT IT TAKES TO BE TRULY STRONG, IS IT...
!
HUF
HUF
...
NARUTO
...

...ANYONE SPECIAL IN YOUR LIFE?

...DO YOU HAVE...

...

CROUCH

WHEN PEOPLE... ARE PROTECTING SOMEONE TRULY PRECIOUS TO THEM...

...THEY TRULY CAN BECOME AS STRONG AS THEY MUST BE!

愛!

...

NARUTO

...

YOU WILL GET STRONGER...

FSSH

UNH...?!

HAAAAA!

AAAAAAAH!!

ZAP ZAP

WH...WHOA, HE'S SUMMONING UNBELIEVABLE AMOUNTS OF CHAKRA... IS...IS THIS REALLY...

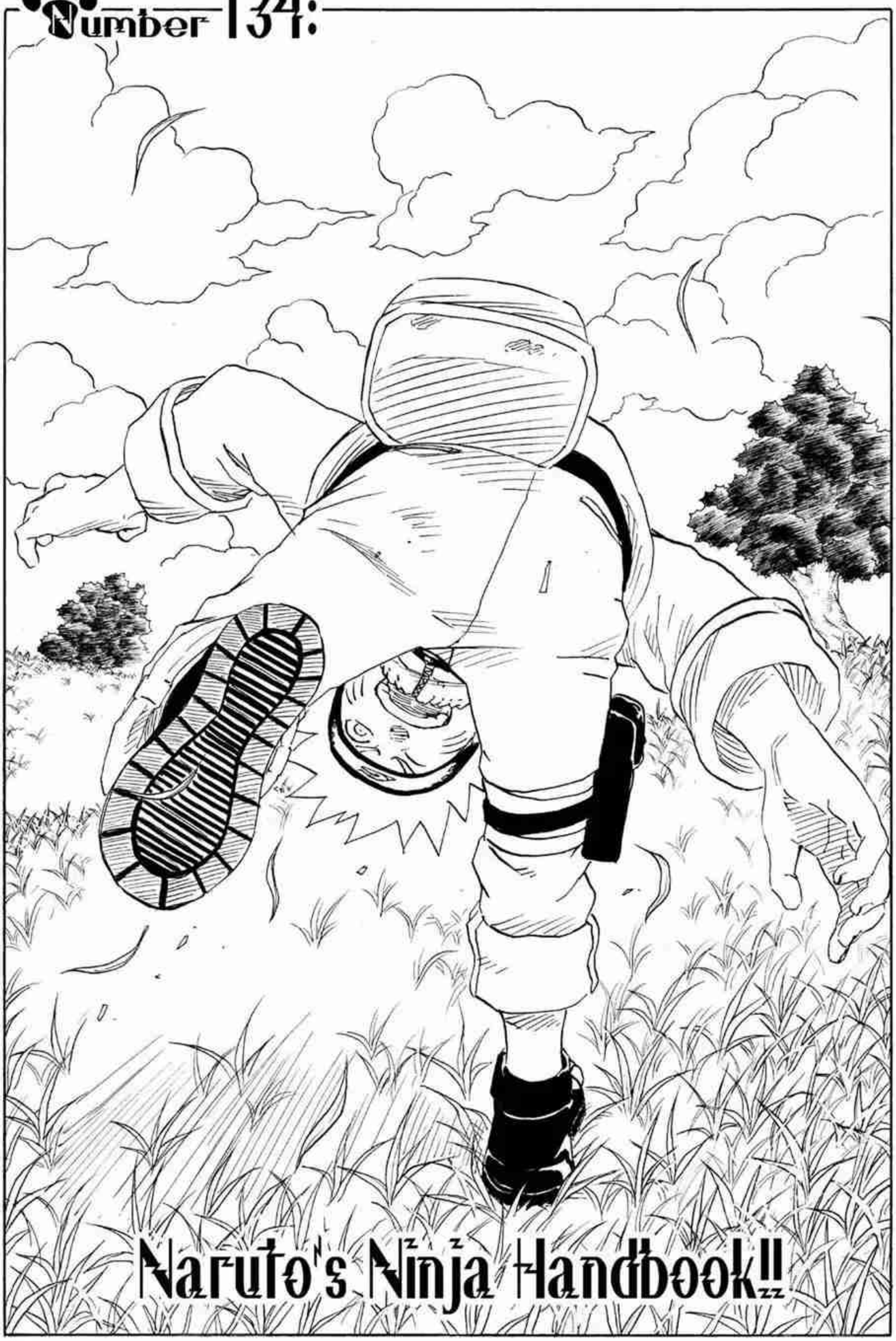
NARUTO?!

I SWEAR, I'LL PROTECT ALL OF YOU!!

TAJÛ KAGE-BUNSHIN NO JUTSU! ART OF THE MULTIPLE SHADOW DOPPEL-GANGERS!!!

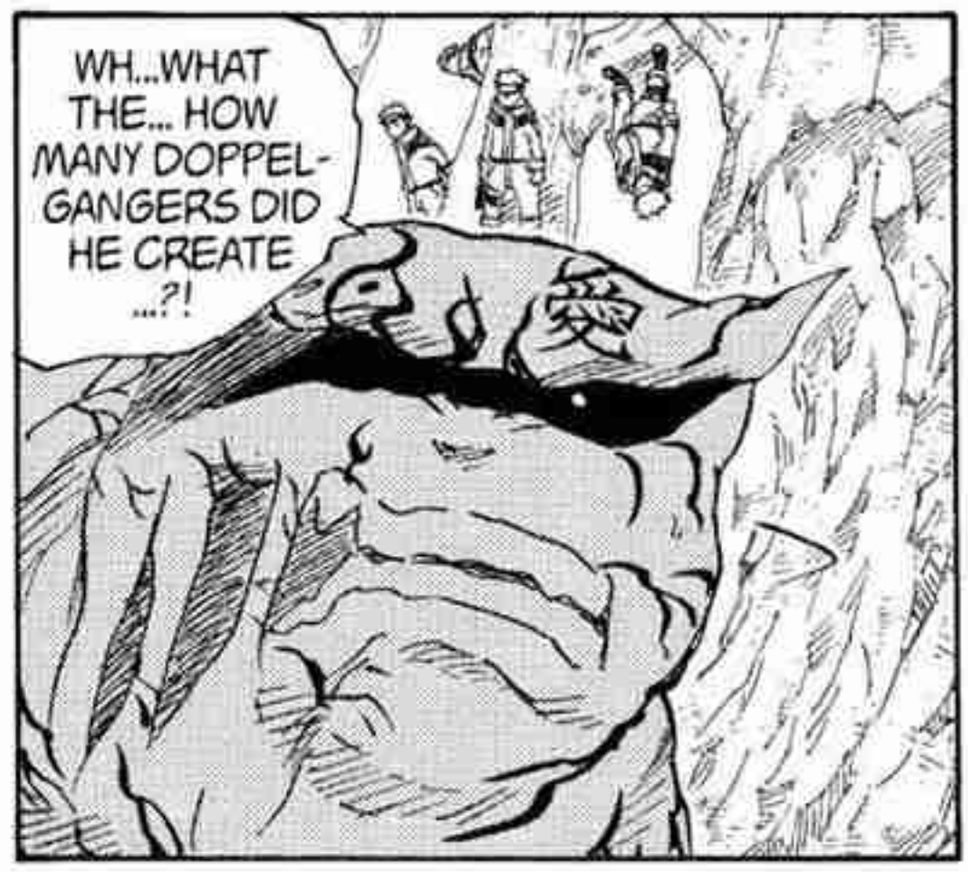
WE NOW BRING YOU NARUTO'S WHIRLING SWIRLING NINJA HANDBOOK!!
SORRY FOR THE WAIT, FOLKS!!

Number 134:



...WH...WHOA... INCREDIBLE ...

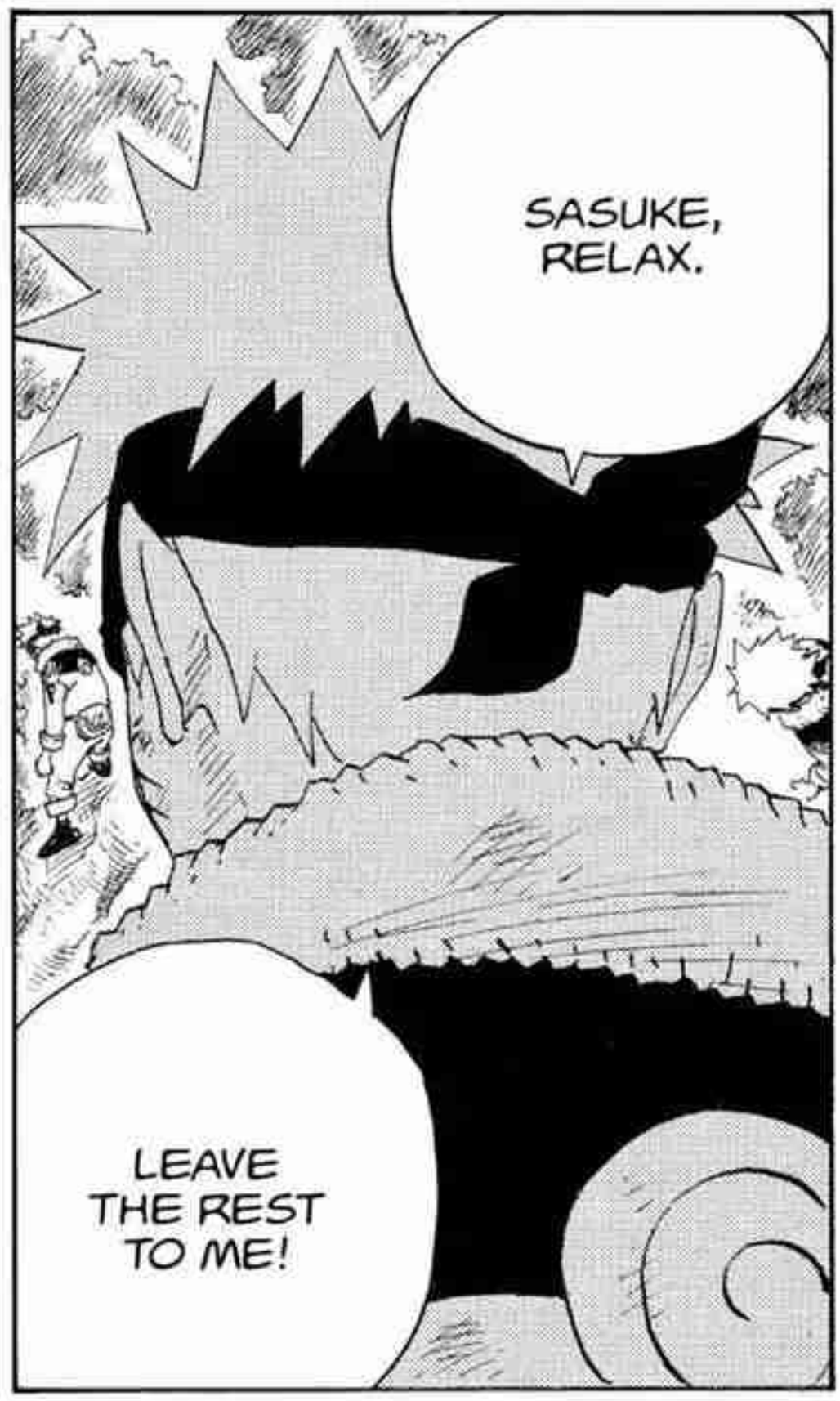
WH... WHAT IS THIS?!


WH...WHAT THE... HOW MANY DOPPEL-GANGERS DID HE CREATE ...?!

...
YOU... THIS...

TIME TO MOVE !!

ALL RIGHT, Y'ALL!!



NARUTO'S NINJA HAND-BOOK!

SHUF SHUF SHUF

THUMP

MA!

KI!

ZU!

U!

NARUTO'S
2000
BLOWS...

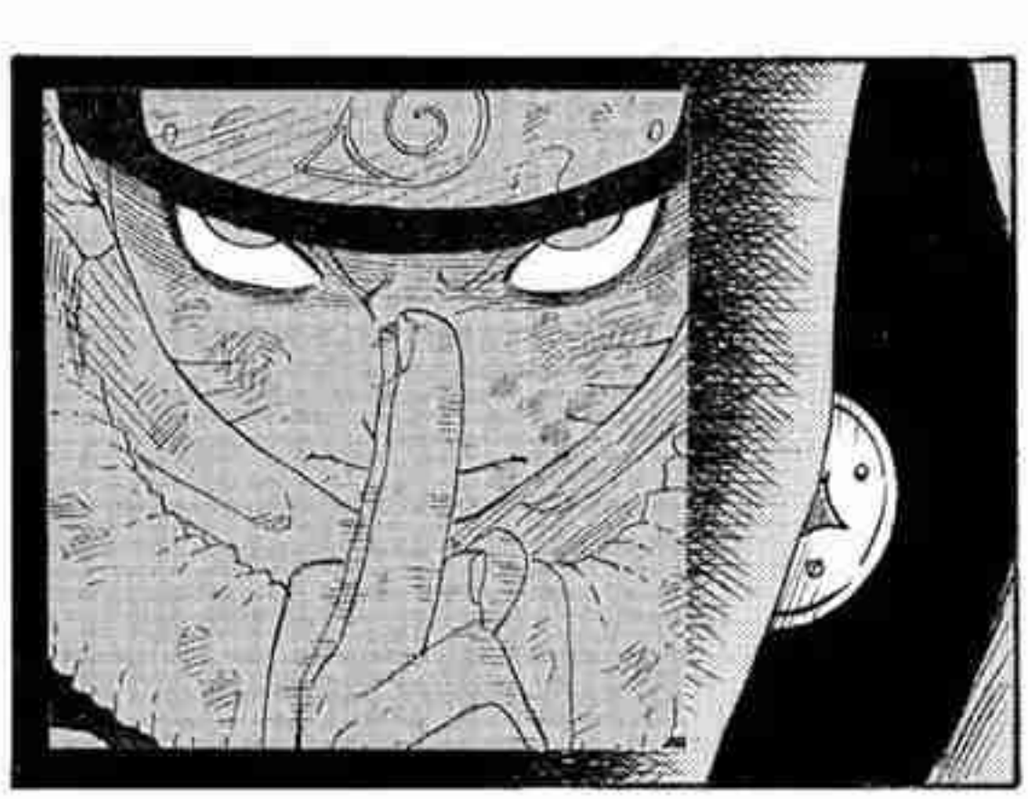
READ THIS WAY
!
愛
...
BARRAGE
!!

SLAM

THD

ALL OF A SUDDEN ...
UGH... WH...WHAT IS HE...

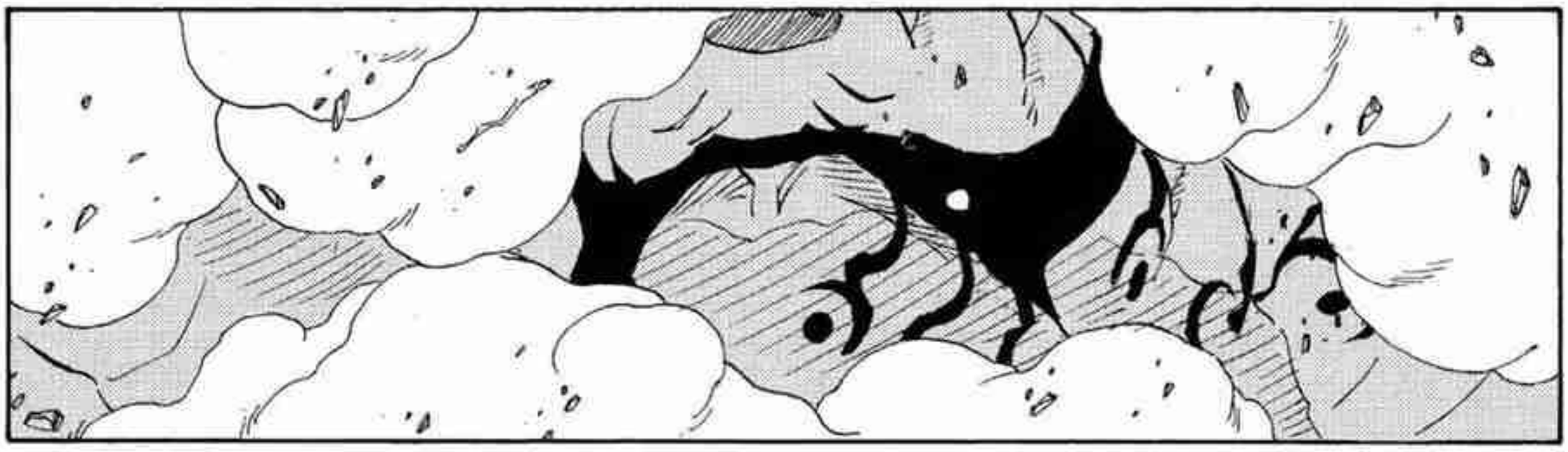
THIS TIME, WE'RE USING BOTH FEET AS WELL... A 4000 BLOWS BARRAGE!!
YEAH!! IT AIN'T OVER YET! THERE'S MUCH MORE TO COME!!



THERE'S NO WAY... I...I CAN'T...

NO WAY... HE'S REALLY GOT GAARA CORNERED...

O...OH NO, DON'T TELL ME... IT'S FINALLY HAPPENING?!
ROOOOOAR!!
I WILL NOT LOSE TO SOME-ONE LIKE YOU!
KA
BOOM
POP POP POP POP



WH...WHAT IS THAT...?

SHUDDER

PERFECT POSSESSION!!

SWIP
!!
HUF
HUF

WAAAH!!
SQUSH

DARN IT... I USED UP MY CHAKRA WITH THOSE DOPPEL-GANGERS JUST NOW...
SLITHER SLITHER

SWSH
SNAP SNAP

!!

NARUTO!!
!

...

SLITHER SLITHER

SLITHER

亥 BOAR
戌 DOG
酉 ROOSTER
申 MONKEY
未 SHEEP ...

SLITHER SLITHER

CRUNCH

SABAKUKYÛ! THE COFFIN OF CRUSHING SAND!

I CAN'T BELIEVE I WAS FORCED TO REVEAL MYSELF... BUT IT'S ALL OVER NOW...

DARN! CAN'T GET UP...!!

THROB

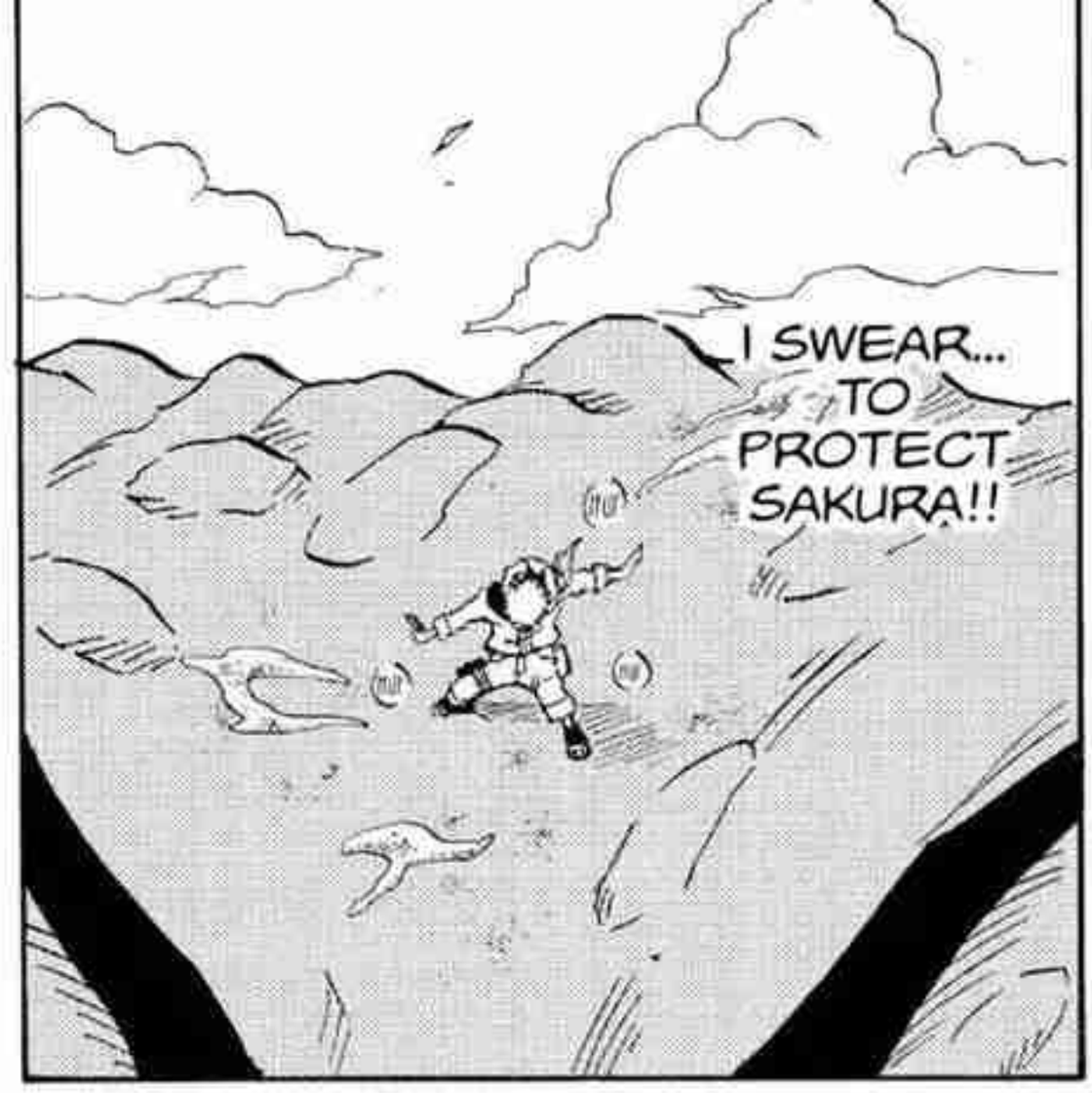
CREAK

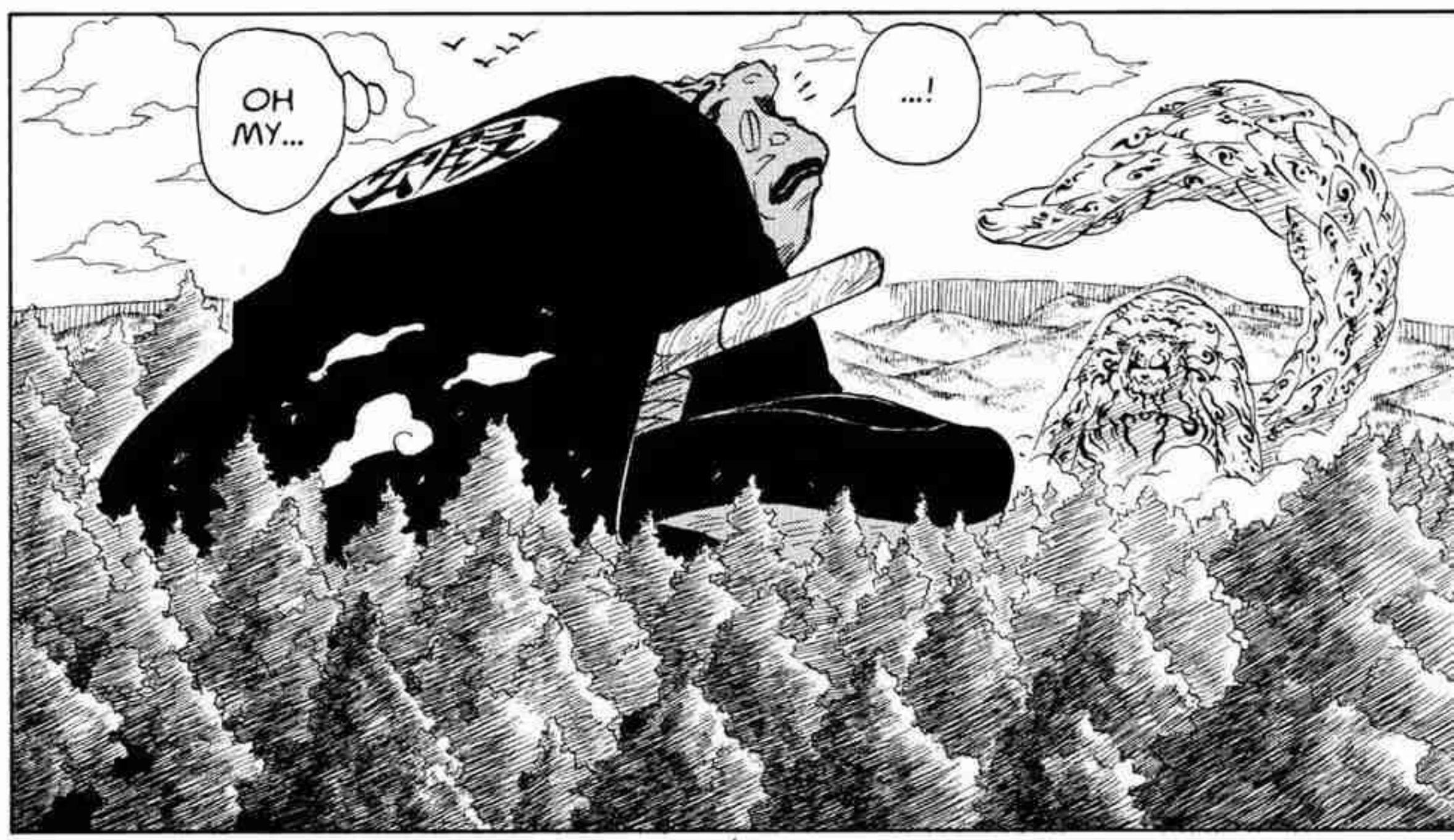
THROB

PO
SABAKU-SÔSÔ! IMPLODING SAND FUNERAL!
KUCHIYOSE NO JUTSU! THE ART OF SUMMONING!!

ハッ

THE TRAINING'S FINALLY PAYING OFF! AWESOME! I CAN DO IT!!
WHAT IS IT THIS TIME ?!
WHAT THE-? YOU AGAIN...?
PUMP


I SWEAR... TO PROTECT SAKURA!!


OH MY...
...!

HEH HEH... HE'S AN ENDLESS SOURCE OF ENTER-TAINMENT...
UZUMAKI NARUTO... WHAT... THE HECK IS HE...
I'M REALLY COUNTING ON YA, CHIEF!!
HEY, CHIEF TOAD, SIR! FIGHT WITH ME, PLEASE, WILL YA?!!
HUF
IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN... THAT'S SHUKAKU, THE SAND SPIRIT...

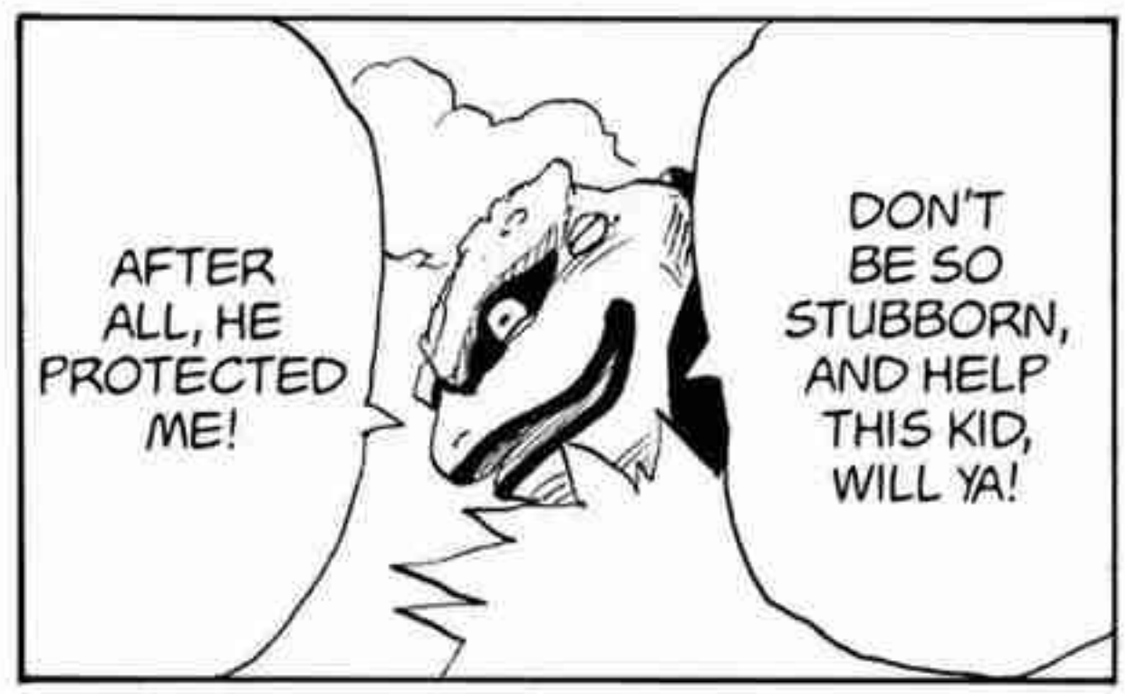
...NO THANKS!!
SHIVER SHIVER
...
...NARUTO... WHAT... HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO...
I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU WERE GONNA MAKE ME YOUR HENCHMAN!!
RAGE RAGE
WHAT DO YOU MEAN!!
WHAT ?!!
AND WHY SHOULD I GO OUT OF MY WAY TO FIGHT THAT CREATURE...? HOW IDIOTIC.
INDEED, I DID SAY I WOULD MAKE YOU MY HENCHMAN... BUT I HAVEN'T EVEN EXCHANGED SAKÉ CUPS WITH YOU YET...
THAT'S CALLED HONOR-BOUND DUTY!!
AND A BOSS HELPS HIS HENCHMEN WHEN THEY'RE IN TROUBLE, RIGHT!
WHAP
WHAP

I CAN'T DRINK!!

YOU GOT TO BE KIDDING! I'M STILL A KID!

HOP

HOP



EH? HUH? HE'S REALLY YOUR DAD?
YUP!
CLICK
AND I'LL SHOW YOU PLENTY OF HONOR-BOUND DUTY!!
...KID... I'LL ACKNOWLEDGE YOU AS MY HENCHMAN!
WHAT~~?!
GLARE
...
SLOOSH
I'M GOING TO SETTLE THIS SCORE... YOU LACKEY!

HE'S GOOD!

Number 135:
The Gale-Like Battle...!!

STOMP

!

ZO
HOLD ON TIGHT!

SWAK
WHOA!

!
GAMA DOSUZAN! TOAD SLASH!!

SHWOOOM

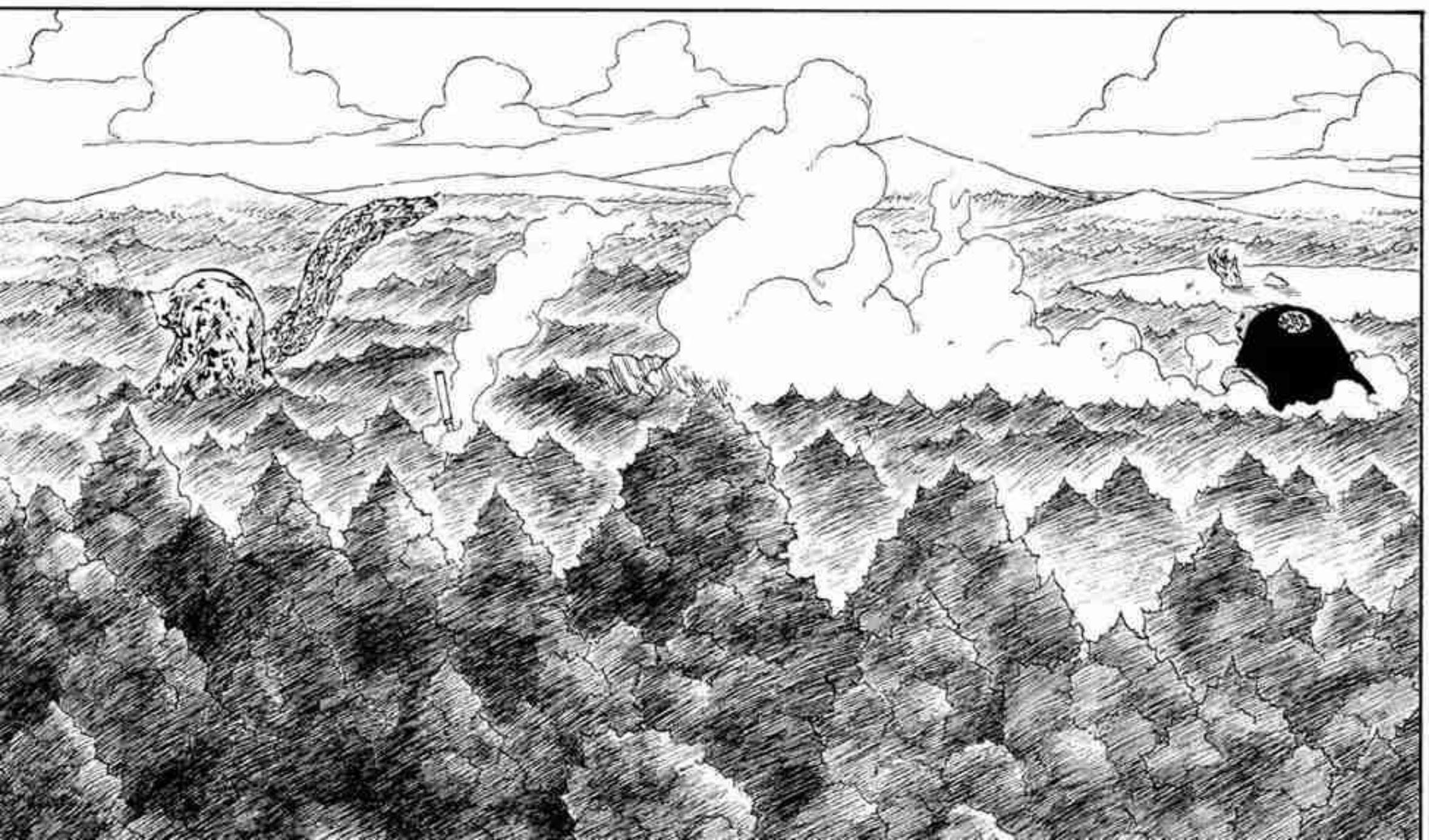
BOUNCE

CRASH

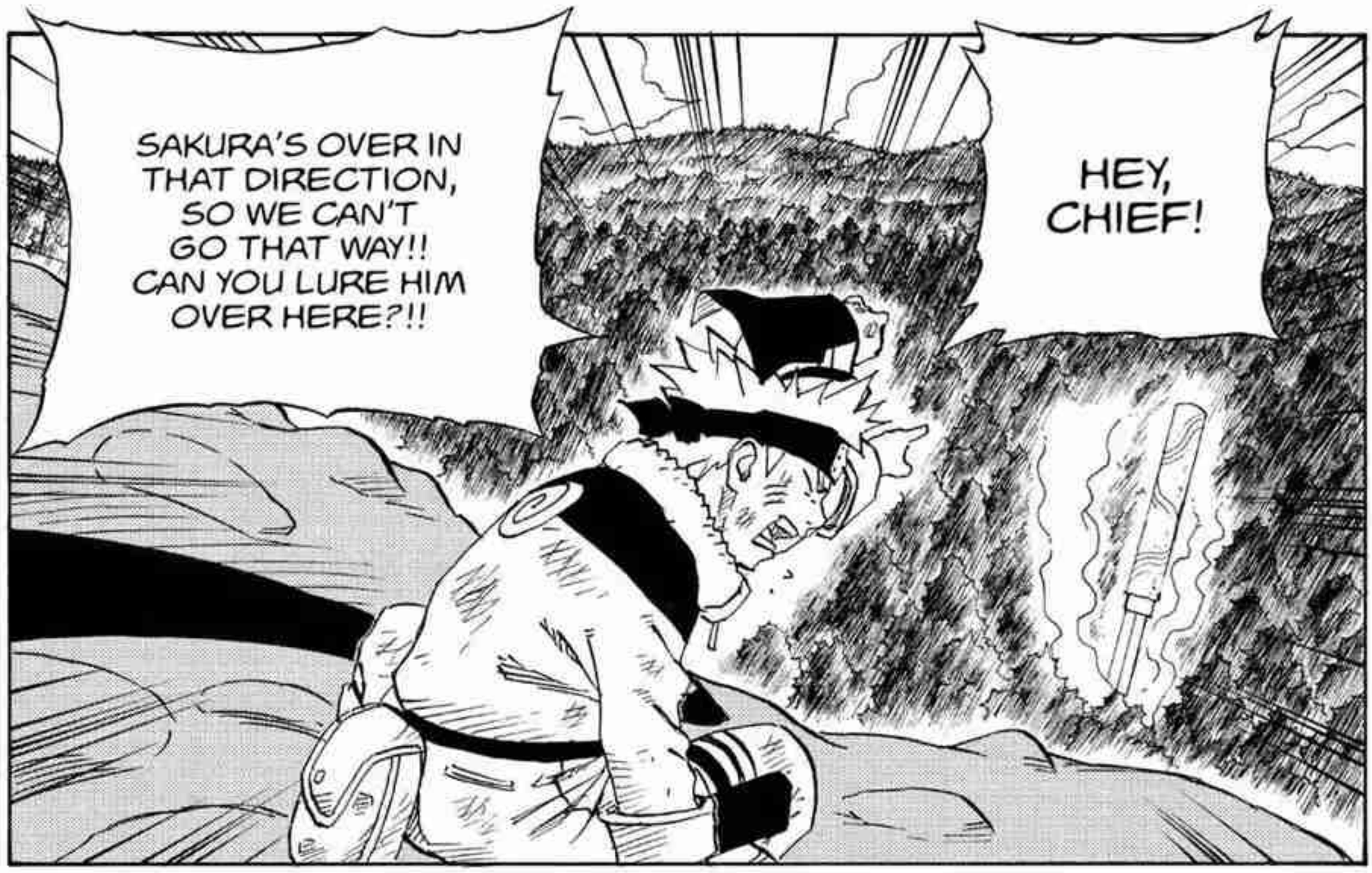
SLASH

SSSHH

THUD



IF I DON'T GET RID OF HIM QUICKLY, THE WHOLE LAND-SCAPE'S GOING TO CHANGE...
...


SAKURA'S OVER IN THAT DIRECTION, SO WE CAN'T GO THAT WAY!! CAN YOU LURE HIM OVER HERE?!!
HEY, CHIEF!

...

OTHERWISE, WE CAN'T SAVE SAKURA!
WE'VE GOT TO TAKE HIM DOWN!

SAKURA ?
...

...PA.
SHE'S HIS GIRL...

UZUMAKI NARUTO!!
FASCINATING! THIS IS GETTING FUN!!

HUH...

TH... THAT'S...!
...!

SHA

CRRK

...SO THAT'S THE HOST, HUH...

SH...SHOOT, GAARA'S PLANNING TO GO ALL THE WAY...! I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE...!!
!!

KSSSSH

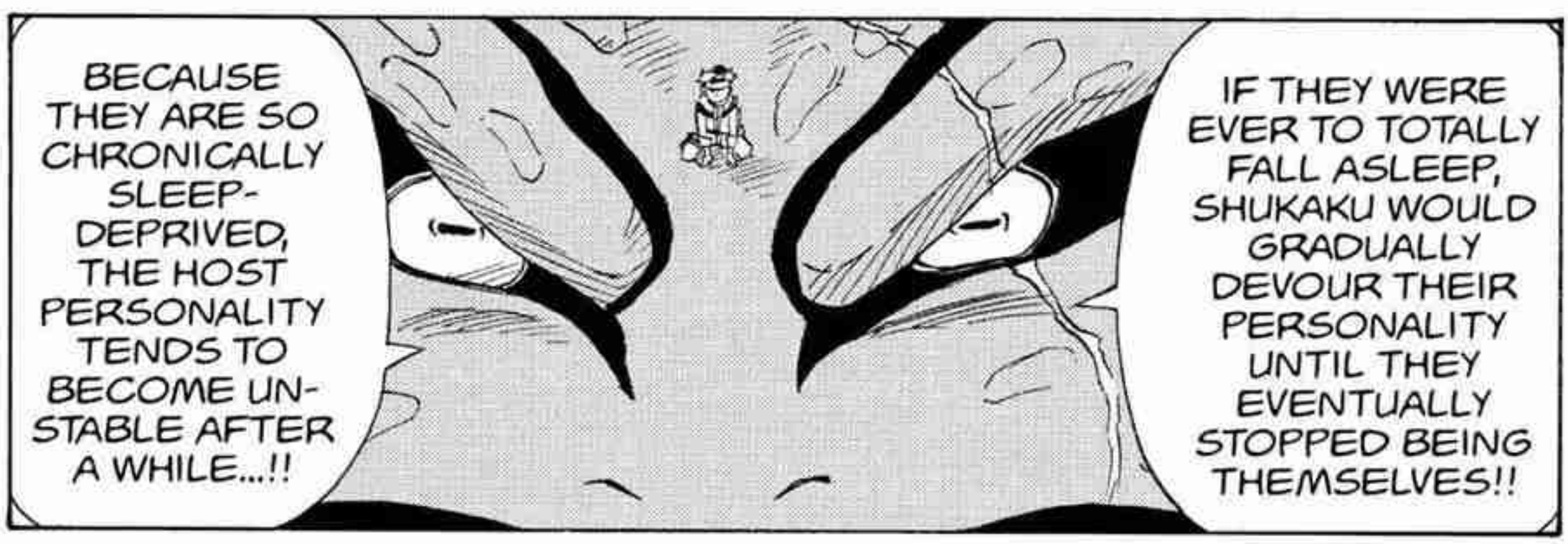
...

...I'LL SHOW YOU THE TRUE STRENGTH OF THE SAND SPIRIT.
IN GRATITUDE FOR GIVING ME SUCH A GOOD TIME SO FAR...

...OUT OF FEAR!
THOSE WHO BECOME POSSESSED BY THE DEMON SHUKAKU STOP BEING ABLE TO TRULY SLEEP SOUNDLY...

LOOK AT THOSE RINGS AROUND HIS EYES.
THAT POOR HOST, HE'S GOT CHRONIC INSOMNIA FROM BEING POSSESSED BY SHUKAKU ...
INSOMNIA?!

?!


BECAUSE THEY ARE SO CHRONICALLY SLEEP-DEPRIVED, THE HOST PERSONALITY TENDS TO BECOME UN-STABLE AFTER A WHILE...!!
IF THEY WERE EVER TO TOTALLY FALL ASLEEP, SHUKAKU WOULD GRADUALLY DEVOUR THEIR PERSONALITY UNTIL THEY EVENTUALLY STOPPED BEING THEMSELVES!!

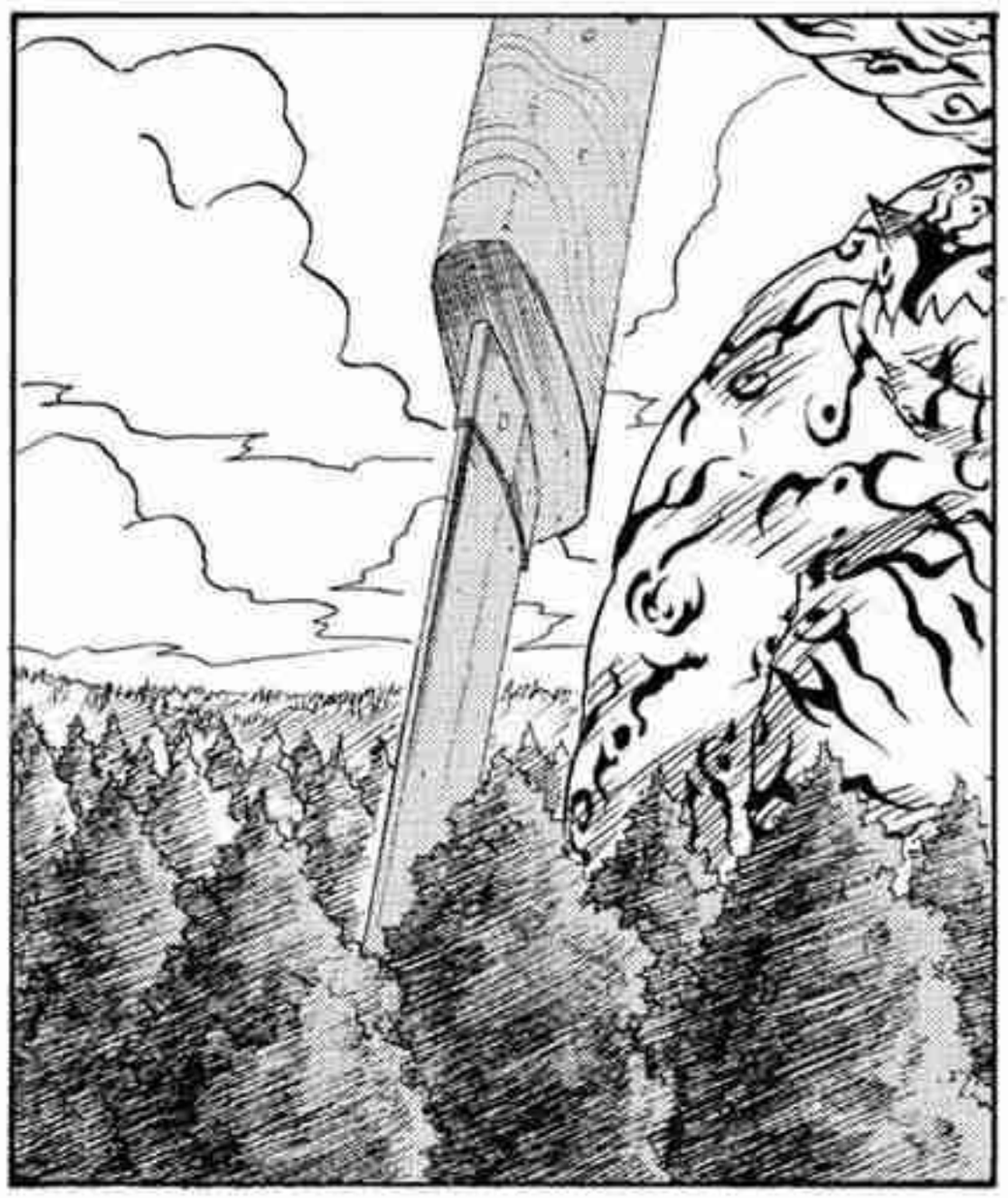
IF THE HOST VOLUNTARILY ENTERS SLEEP...

... SHUKAKU'S TRUE STRENGTH IS SUP-PRESSED... BUT...
NORMALLY... WHILE THE HOST IS AWAKE...

...

FSSS

TANUKI NEIRI NO JUTSU! THE ART OF PLAYING POSSUM !!



SLAP
RENKÛDAN! AIR BULLETS!!

I'M GONNA LEAP!!

SKOOSH

WATER STYLE...!

SKOOSH

SHA WOOM

THERE'S STILL ONE LEFT!
WATCH OUT, CHIEF!!

PLOOSH
WHAT A BATTLE...
THIS IS LIKE A HURRICANE...

PLOOSH

UGH!!

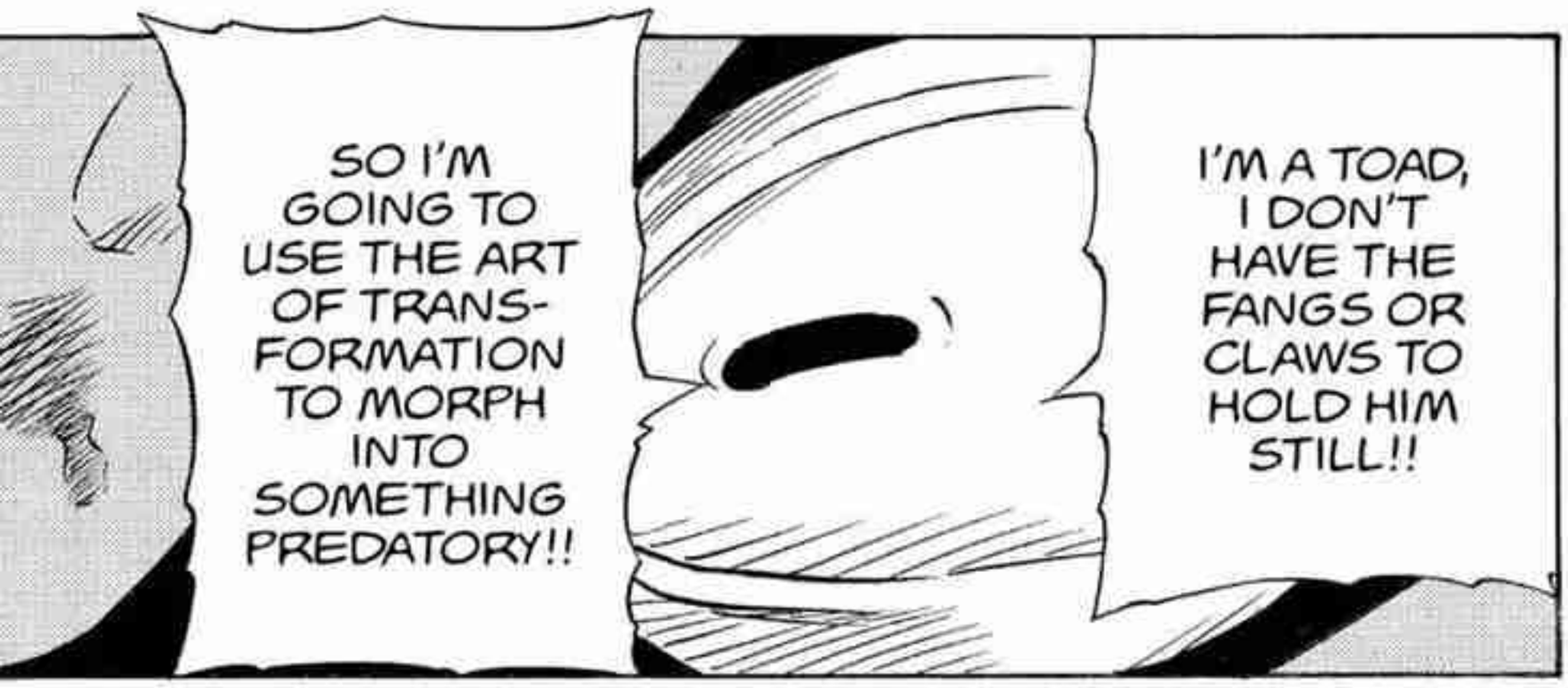
KA-BOOM
CRASH
I KILLED 'EM, I KILLED 'EM!!
WHEE! I DID IT!
!
WHAMP
OWW, THAT HURT! THAT LITTLE BALL WAS PACKED WITH AN UNBELIEVABLE AMOUNT OF CHAKRA!!

THEN THE JUTSU WILL COME UNDONE!!
THE MOST IMPORTANT THING THERE IS! WE'VE GOT TO CLOBBER THAT HOST BRAT AWAKE!!
FLIP

SO WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO?!!
EVEN SOMEONE LIKE ME CAN'T TAKE MANY MORE OF THOSE LITTLE BALLS!

THAT'LL GIVE US THE OPENING TO STRIKE!!
WE NEED TO GET UP CLOSE AND STOP THAT FOOL'S MOVEMENTS!

HOW?!


SO I'M GOING TO USE THE ART OF TRANS-FORMATION TO MORPH INTO SOMETHING PREDATORY!!
I'M A TOAD, I DON'T HAVE THE FANGS OR CLAWS TO HOLD HIM STILL!!

AGAIN, HOW?!

'CUZ YOU USED UP THE LAST OF YOUR CHAKRA TO SUMMON ME, RIGHT?!!
SHF

I NEED YOU TO WEAVE THE SIGNS FOR ME... AND I'LL LEND YOU MY CHAKRA!!
TRANSFOR-MATION ISN'T MY STRONG SUIT!
IT'LL BE A COMBO TRANSFOR-MATION!!

GRRR...!

BOOM

BOOF

HERE WE GO!!
WAIT! OH, NO!

UHH! UHH!
EH?!! SOME-THING WITH FANGS AND CLAWS...

GRRAR

GRA
CRO
GRRR!!
A FOX?!

TO BE CONTINUED IN NARUTO VOL. 16!